



Thursday, March 30, 2017

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OFFICES FOR OLD

A 19th Century pub in Lye is to be demolished and a public footpath diverted, under plans approved by Dudley Council.

An application to tear down Ye Olde Saltbrook on Hayes Lane An application to teal down to Oide Statistics in Trayes Lake to make way for offices, a workshop and storage, was given unanimous approval by Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday night.

The vacant inn, which dates back nearly 200 years, is by the banks of the River Stour and will now become the latest Black Country pub to be knocked down.

down.

The adjacent footpath connecting Hayes Lane with Dunns Bank and Bromley

Stroot will be diverted to the west around

Ye Olde Saltbrook on Hayes Lane

£850k bingo Woman jailed hall is given over Sheeran the go-ahead song torment

for approval by the council's planning officers and given the green through loud noise involving music,
light at Monday's meeting of the development control committee.
"The unit has been vacant for over
four years and this clearly suggests
that the site is not attractive for retail users," said agent Paul Derry,
on behalf of applicants Mecca Bingo
tld. "The change of use will result
in a significant £850,000 investment
into a building described as a negain into a was handed a six-

A BINGO hall is set to open at the site of a former supermarket in Dudley town centre, creating 25 jobs. Planning permission has been granted to enable Mecca Bingo to open its latest venue inside the old Select and Save shop on the High Street.

The firm said it was keen to improve attractions on offer in Dudley by taking over the empty unit and that it would investment £850,000 in the project.

The proposal was recommended for approval by the council's planning officers and given the green in the project.

into a building described as a negative contribution building in a conservation area character appraisal."

The bingo hall would be created under the brand name Luda, a chain of smaller clubs aiming to appeal to a generation of younger players.

peatedly arrested for breaching that injunction and was handed a six-week jail term last December.

She was released in February but after another complaint the case came before Judge Gregory at Walsall County Court who jailed her for eight weeks.

Street, will be diverted to the west around

Street, will be diverted to the west around the site as part of the plans.

Last year the council's officers concluded that prior approval was not required to demolish the pub, because it the scheme was a permitted development under planning policy.

An application outlining proposed development on the site was required and another than the property of the street was required and another than the site was required to the site of the site

opment on the site was required and ap-proval of these plans now enables buildings

to be constructed on the pub's site.

These new premises will comprise of a 400 square metre industrial unit, a 36 square metre storage shed and associated

square flietre storage sneu and associated car parking and manoeuvring space.
Ye Olde Saltbrook, which was formerly known as The Saltbrook and The Dewfall Arms, is not a listed building but is included in the council's historic building sites and monuments record.

Jobs

During the meeting, chair of the development control committee Councillor Jackie Cowell said: "It's a shame that we are seeing another pub demolished.
"But it's been a great number of years in disuse and if it is bringing a small number of jobs, that is good for the area."
The plans were unanimously approved by members of the committee.
Ahead of the meeting, Dudley Local Access Forum expressed concern about the changes to the public footpath, stating: "The path passes through an attractive area of wild space alongside the River Stour."

However, the forum said it would accept a diverted route provided that good visi-bility was maintained, the path remained above the floodplain, that there was open space on either side and it was still accessi-ble to wheelchair users.

Anna to run Paris streets for hospice



Anna Swingler is to run the Paris marathon next month in memory of her grandmother, who was care for a Mary Stevens Hospice

A FUNDRAISER will be travelling

A FUNDIALISE. Will be travelling to the French capital to take part in the annual Paris marathon, in support of Mary Stevens Hospice.

Anna Swingler, from Stourbridge, chose to support the Hagley Road hospice following the passing of her nan, Pat, who spent time in the hospice during her battle with

cancer.
The 26.2 mile run on April 9 will take 25-year-old and the expected 35,000 other runners on a unique tour of the historic city, past landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arc De Triomphe and Notre Dame Cathedral Cathedral

Cathedrai.

Anna said: "The hospice in Stour-bridge cared for my nan a few years ago when she was suffering from cancer. When visiting I was so impressed with all the care the staff provided. The nurses and medical help that they provide to patients is "If I can raise even a tiny amount

"If I can raise even a tiny amount for this hospice it will make all the miles, training and time worth it."
Laura Millard, community engagement officer, Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "She's a remarkable woman. To run a marathon in itself is really quite incredible, but to travel all the way to Paris to do it in the name of the hospice is something so special. "Our relationship with Anna was obviously born out of incredibly difficult circumstances, and for her to use such a tough situation

her to use such a tough situation as the motivation to do something as the motivation to do something wonderful for families in the same situation is just the most amazing show of strength and selflessness. "We've no doubt she's going to absolutely smash it."

To support Anna's fundraising, visit her JustGiving page at www. justgiving.com/fundraising/an na-swingler

CRIME

Armed robbers in raid on Co-op store

ARMED robbers raided a supermarket in the Black Country, demanding cash from terrified workers.

Three men struck at the Co-op on Upper Church Lane, Tipton, at around 8.30pm on Thursday.

Thursday. Police have launched an inves-

Hidsay. Folice lave ladicitied an illustrigation.
West Midlands Police spokesman Craig
Hughes said: "Three offenders, all believed
to be carrying weapons, demanded money
from staff and escaped with a quantity of
cash. CCTV has been recovered and forensic investigators scoured the store for

BUSINESS

Signs are good for manufacturer

A SIGNS manufacturer has moved to larger premises in Dudley and bought new machinery. DGS Supplies, which manufactures

and distributes road and health and safety signs for construction compa-nies, has won its first national contract, with DIY chain Homebase.

The firm has moved to new premises on Dudley's Thornleigh Trading Estate, double the size of its previous unit on Vauxhall Street, and two new staff have joined the now 10-strong workforce.

EDUCATION

Principal and staff's national recognition

THE principal and staff at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath have been se-lected for a top role supporting schools that find themselves in challenging circum-

Andrew Burns is one of more than 70 Andrew Burns is one or more than 70 principals to be appointed to the role of national leader of education (NLE). NLEs along with staff in their school use their success and professionalism to provide additional leadership for struggling

schools.

Mr Burns said: "It's an incredible honour the designation on behalf of the to receive this designation on behalf of the

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We need you to help with the hole truth

DRIVERS are increasingly facing a new menace on our roads that is causing tens of thousands of pounds damage to cars and poses a danger to road users – potholes.

Roads across the region are crum-bling with a backlog in road mainte-nance, more traffic on the roads and

nance, more traffic on the roads and the weather blamed for the pothole epidemic we are now facing.

Despite Government funding to help councils tackle the problem, potholes are popping up everywhere with experts estimating it will take nine years to clear the backlog of maintenance needed on our roads.



Drowning in a deluge of complaints browning in a deuge of compaints about potholes, councils say they have to prioritise main roads and those where the damage poses the greatest risk to the public. As the councils target the roads they believe should benefit from the Government

roads you avoid now because they are

roads you avoid now because they are so badly damaged?

The Chronicle wants to identify the top 10 pothole black spots across Staffordshire and the Black Country to flag up to our councils. We want our readers, the people who have to drive on these pothole-ridden routes every day, to have their say on which

funding, we want you to help us highlight the worst potholes you know.

Which road feels more like an off-road track as you bounce along?
Where are the deep potholes that risk puncturing tyres or damagin your car's suspension? Are there any reads you avoid now heaves they are the road. to the road.

Please email details of the road which is damaged, a picture if pos-sible, your name and any comments you would like to make to Sue.Attwa-

ter@expressandstar.co.uk Alternatively, drop us a line at Ed-itorial, The Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Driving us potty! As councils count costs

COUNCILS across the region are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation to drivers because of the shocking state of the roads, figures have revealed.

revealed.

Staffordshire County Council has had to pay out more than £270,000 in compensation to drivers in the last four years.

Between 2012/13 and 2015/16 a total of 3,715 claims were made against the authority—with some still not resolved after four years. During the period the authority, responsible for highways maintenance, paid out £273,265 to motorists who had suffered accidents due to the poorly treated roads.

Walsall Council paid out £4.282 in com-

Walsall Council paid out £4,282 in compensation over 43 claims in 2015/16 and £9,366 for 71 claims the year before that. While in 2013/14 there was £15,022 paid for 143 claims and £29,642 the year before for 201 claims.

lor 201 claims. In Sandwell, there were 23 successful claims made by drivers in 2014/15, compared to 36 in 2013/14, 88 in 2012/13 and 72 in 2011/12. The amount paid out by the council in those years was £48,217 in 2014/15, £98,462 the year before, £351,669 and £563,921 in 2011/12.

Disgrace

Meanwhile Dudley Council has revealed that it paid out more than £22,000 in compensation over damage caused by potholes during a two-year period. Some 270 claims were lodged by drivers against the council between 2014 and 2016 over damage caused by crumbling roads.

Staffordshire County Councillor Gordon Alcott said: "To me it is a disgrace that the council has had to spend this much public money on paying out for damaged caused by potholes.

"They know there is a huge problem but they don't seem to be bothered about fixing it or improving the situation.

"Some of the roads in Staffordshire are abysmal. I know already that cyclists, HGV drivers and motorcyclists are having to swerve out of the way of some potholes and I just worry that it is a matter of time until someone is seriously injured."

Recently the Chronicle revealed that 38 reports about potholes on just one roundabout were made to the county council the

reports about potholes on just one rounda-bout were made to the county council, the Five Ways island in Heath Hayes.



The island at Five Ways, Heath Hayes near Cannock, for which there were complaints about 38 potholes

Long road ahead to deal with backlog

 $SOME\ \pounds 1.25$ billion is needed to get roads in the West Midlands back into reasonable condition with one in six needing to be repaired or even facing closure within the next five years, a damning report has revealed.

revealed.

An ageing network, decades of underfunding, increased traffic and wetter winters has led to around 17 per cent of all local roads reported as being in poor structural condition, with less than five years of life remaining, according to the Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey.

The number of potholes filled on the probabilists of the conditions o

the crumbling road network over

the last year has dropped again for the second successive year, but is still high at 1.7 million – which works out as one every 19 seconds.

The ALARM survey, produced by the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA), is now in its 22nd year and is seen by many as the most authoritative and comprehensive study into local road maintenance funding and condition.

ing and condition.

It reports that nationwide local authorities need over £12 billion to bring the network up to scratch—a figure that has remained largely unchanged for four years—and the raw between the sproup them. unchanged for four years – and the gap between the amount they received this year and the amount

they say they need to keep the carriageway in reasonable order is almost £730 million.

ragoway in reasonate order is armost £730 million.

And it will take nine years to clear the backlog of carriage maintenance in the region, according to the report. It costs an average of £69 per pothole.

Alan Mackenzie, chairman of the AIA, said: "Potholes are a symptom of poorly maintained roads but spending money fixing them in isolation, although essential, is wasteful. The most efficient way to deal with our crumbling roads is to fix them properly and stop potholes forming in the first place. "It is time we had a rethink."

Poundland is shedding last of the 99p Stores chain

POUNDLAND has put the 99p Stores business into administration after clos-

ing around 60 stores.

The Black Country-based £1-for-everything business bought the rival budget chain in a £55 million deal 18 months ago.

Most of the 250 99p Stores have been

converted to Poundlands but 60 stores were left. They were all closed down in the first three months of this year and nearly all the staff transferred to nearby Poundland branches.

Poundiand branches.
The separate 99p Stores company has now been placed in administration with Alix Partners, who will handle the company and its liabilities.
The 99p Stores takeover was delayed

for months by a competition watchdog investigation that finally found no cause

But that resulted in substantial additional costs for Poundland when it came to absorbing the business and converting its shops

ing its snops.

The cost of the takeover punched a big hole in Poundland's 2016 profits and left Poundland vulnerable to a takeover bid by South African retail group Steinhoff, which paid £610 million for it last year.

which paid 2010 million for it last year.
A spokesman for the Willenhall-based
business said 'almost everyone' working
at 999 Stores had been found a job.
Founded in the Black Country in 1990,
Poundland now has more than 700 UK

stores with others in Spain and Ireland As well as its headquarters in Willenhall it operates a major dept at Bilston, together employing around 700 people.

Date for Wolves memorial service

WOLVES fans will pay tribute at a memorial service next week to loved ones

morial service next week to loved ones and club legends who have died.

Club bosses have announced that its annual memorial service will be at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton on Tuesday from 6pm.

Among the famous names associated with Wolves to have died over the last year include former vice-president and women's cricket star Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint, former managers Graham Taylor and Graham Hawkins, and Sammy Smyth, who scored in the 1949 Sammy Smyth, who scored in the 1949 FA Cup Final victory.

TA CUP Final victory.

The service is expected to last 45 minutes. Those wishing to attend should email fans@wolves.co.uk with names of loved ones. The deadline is 5pm tomorrow (Friday).

Speed cameras are back on busy route

SPEED cameras have been installed on the Birmingham New Road ahead of being switched on this week. It will be being switched of this week. It will be the first time permanent cameras have been working on the busy dual carriage-way for four years and drivers are being warned to stick to the speed limit.

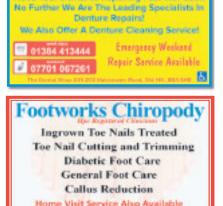




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after armed police raid block of flats

ARMED police descended on a block of flats in Tividale as part of a seven-hour stand-off with a suspected

en-hour stand-off with a suspected burglar.

Negotiators tried to talk to the man, believed to be armed with a knife, while armed officers and riot police swooped on the flats in Tower Road.

The street was closed as a precaution while police negotiators tried to persuade the man to come out of the second floor flat.

A 28-year-old man was eventually arrested on suspicion of a number of counts of burglary in connection with pre-existing warrants.

pre-existing warrants.

The first officers on scene went to The first officers on scene went to the address to arrest a man at around 10am on Saturday and then called for armed assistance as he was believed to have a knife. Five police cars and an ambulance were despatched. Two fire engines were also in attendance. Officers with guns arrived at the flat shortly after 2pm.

West Midlands Police confirmed via Twitter that it was not a terrorism related incident.

Shocked residents watched as around six police officers with riot

around six police officers with riot shields and batons entered alongside armed officers.

A police spokesperson confirmed on Saturday night that the incident had been resolved and a man had been ar-rested. A statement said: "A man is now in police custody following a seven-hour stand-off with police. Nobody was hurt in the incident and we would like to thank the community for their perione."

Mental health work praised

MENTAL health services in Dudley and Walsall have been praised for making 'significant improvements' and is now rated as 'good'.

The inspection was carried out by the Care Quality Commission, which judged care through Dudley and Wal-sall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, providing services to around 560,000 patients.

The trust was previously inspected in February 2016 when it was rated as 'requires improvement' overall but in-spectors found considerable improve-ments had since been made.

However, health trust bosses were still told to look at making services effective, those which were judged as 'requiring improvement'

Economy better than expected

THE West Midlands economy is doing better than expected as Article 50 kick-starts Brexit but could slow in 2018. Accountants PwC predict growth around 1.4 per cent this year, slowing to 0.9 per cent next year.

Man arrested Drivers told to avoid M5 for 18 months



DRIVERS have been urged not to use the M5 during a major 18-month roadworks scheme unless they really

Motorists are facing a traffic night-Motorists are facing a train clight-mare from Easter when the speed limit between junctions one for West Bromwich and two for Oldbury is slashed to 30mph. Those who reg-ularly use the motorway are facing chaos until the end of 2018.

Highways England has insisted the work to replace waterproofing on the crumbling Oldbury viaduct is essential and cannot be put off.

Bosses also stressed the job could not be done overnight and that the

30mph speed limit is necessary if slip roads were to be kept open. It is likely to leave thousands of vehicles crawling along the two-mile stretch

Council bosses in Sandwell have Council bosses in Sandwell have raised concerns about the impact the roadworks scheme will have on busi-nesses and surrounding roads. Matthew Taylor, Highways Eng-land asset manager for Birmingham, said drivers were should avoid the motorway.

He said: "This is going to have a major impact and we wouldn't be scheme unless we absolutely had to.

"The waterproofing has come to the end of its life and has been down for

30 years.
"We are asking people who usually use the M5 to look at using alterna-

tive routes or public transport."

Traffic will continue to run in both directions for the duration of the works, but will be reduced to two nar-

Choir celebrates pianist's 90th

CRADLEY Heath Male Voice Choir broke off from rehearsals to celebrate the 90th birthday of their dedicated accompanist

accompanist.

A fish and chip supper was held to celebrate Cynthia Partridge's 90th, as well as to mark the musical director Philippa Brettle's 40th birthday.

Cynthia has been the accompanist for the choir for the last 19 years.

She also trains the choir's barber-shop singers and all of the soloists.

The choir's next concert, in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice, is at St James' Church Wollaston, on April 8.

Landmarks dark for the Earth Hour

BUILDINGS across the West Mid-

BUILDINGS across the West Mid-lands fell dark for one hour in honour of Earth Hour.

The event, organised by conserva-tion group World Wildlife Foundation saw landmarks including the Sealife Centre, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and Birmingham Cathedral all turn out their lights from 8.30pm on Saturday.

Saturday.

In what was billed as the world's largest demonstration of support for action to climate change, workplaces and hundreds of houses across the Black Country the Earth Hour.

Meeting update on Hippodrome plan

A PUBLIC meeting updating the public on progress with the refurbishment of the iconic Dudley Hippodrome theatre will be held on Sunday. People are invited to hear the latest

People are invited to hear the latest on the multi-million project to bring the historic building back into use. The meeting will be held at the Station Hotel on Castle Hill from 6.30pm. Campaigners from the Black Country Hippodrome group say it is likely to be at least three years before the venue opens to the public.

Free wedding is prize for a happy couple

A COUPLE from Halesowen have won a free wedding.
Billie Pell and her husband-to-be David Crampton will tie the knot in August at Priory Hall in Dudley.
The couple have been together for 10 years and have a three-year-old daughter.
They entered a free prize draw at an open day held at the Dudley town centre venue on Saturday. The park features the old Priory ruins and is overlooked by Dudley Castle.

Healthy advice at event

A SURGERY is holding a health awareness day tomorrow (Friday). Cross Street Health Centre in Dudley is promoting positive behaviour and to helping patients gain information to improve health. The event is from 10am until 4pm. For more informa-tion call Kerry on (01384) 459044.

New homes plan to rid town of eyesores

across Dudley over the next decade bringing eyesore land and empty shops back to life.

Several sites have been put forward in-cluding land next to the Black Country Living Museum, opposite Dudley Magistrates Court and in the town centre.

The council has committed to building 360 homes as part of the Dudley Area Action Plan. A total of 35 homes are set to be built on Tipton Road, 25 on the Gipsies Tent Inn which has stood empty on Steppingstone Street near the court for more than 35 years and 60 on Upper High Street High Street.

High Street.

Plans to build 80 homes on car park land on King Street and Flood Street have also been mentioned in the report, along with homes on Abberley Street, Tower Street, Cavendish House and Birdcage Walk and Appleyard Site in Wolverhampton Street.

in Wolverhampton Street.

It is hoped that the homes will be built by 2026. Councillors have welcomed the proposals. Councillor Cathryn Bayton said homes are needed and the town centre homes will 'hopefully lead to a more thriving town'.

She said: "I always welcome any housing developments as long as they meet the criteria of being affordable – whether that's through social housing or Government affordable housing schemes."

Regeneration

"Bringing homes to the town will hopefully lead to a more thriving town and types of busi-nesses may change and lean more towards a market town. I welcome anything that results

market town. I welcome anything that results in the regeneration of Dudley."

Councillor Steve Waltho said: "The new homes are good news. There are far too many tatty old shops and if we can regenerate the centre by converting shops into homes and bringing more people into the town to live then it will hopefully give the economy a lift."

There are a number of other ambitious proposals for Dudley, including revamping the bus station and extending the Midland Metro.

A document published by the council, said 'there is a need to achieve a mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures'.

there is a need to achieve a mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures'.

It was revealed earlier this month the council is also planning to spruce up shop frontages on Birdcage Walk. The vision for Birdcage Walk and other streets near the bus station include demolishing the former Co-op.

Pensioner loves pumping iron



Weightlifting Coseley pensioner Edward Bastable says age doesn't have to be a barrier to keeping fit

WHEN it comes to fitness, age knows no bounds as 71-year-old Edward Bastable is a regular pumping iron at this local gym.

Mr Bastable, from Coseley, tried out the gym at the Sandwell leight of the state of the sandwell leight of

out the gym at the Sandwell lei-sure Trust facility at Tipton Lei-sure Centre when he was 69 out of 'boredom' but has not looked back since. He now trains there five to six times a week and has lost more

than three and a half stone.
"I only went along to the gym

out of boredom and to see what it was like but it's become a bit of an obsession I guess," he said.
"I'd ballooned up to 17-and-ahalf stone since finishing work.
SLT showed me the ropes and devised some specific programmes and devised some specific programmes and devised some specific programmes.

SLI snowed me the ropes and devised some specific programmes and ongoing targets.

"I've surprised myself at how well it's all gone and I do well in the regular gym challenges – I'm regularly in the top five for the press up challenge up against all

you properly build up muscle mass. I warm up for an hour on the exercise bike, cross trainer and rowing machine too and lots of the youngsters joke that's all they can manage."

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COUNTY NEWS

Glasses unveiled for anniversary

BLACK Country brewery Bathams is introducing new 140th anniversary glasses in its pubs.

The family-owned brewery has been going since 1877 and five generations have now been involved in producing its beers.

The existing Bathams brewery is located at behind the The Vine Inn, Delph Road, Brierley Hill, which is better knowns as The Bull and Blad-

Bathams produce three different cask ales – Bathams Best Bitter, Bathams Mild Ale and Bathams XXX.

Sir Lenny backs book on staffing

A NEW book endorsed by Dudley-born Sir Lenny Henry and put together by a university aims to put inclusivity into the heart of the newsroom, ensuring that journalists better reflect the diversity of the UK population. Everybody In, by Birmingham City University, tackles protected characteristics such as age, disability, gender, religion and sexuality, as well as class, Islamophobia and regionalism. The themes of the book have already resonated strongly with the Executive

resonated strongly with the Executive Board of the Broadcast Journalism Training Council.

Rental market is still growing

THE rental market continues to grow and shows no signs of slowing down, according to lettings and estate agen-cy chain Connells. Connells is seeing six tenants chase every rental property on the market across its national

network of branches.

It helped 24 per cent more tenants move into homes last year and is urging landlords to take advantage of current demand and asking prospective tenants to get in touch to secure the best properties on the market to let.

City pizza gig for Lucky Stars and Lydia singer

AMERICAN recording artist Dean Friedman will be performing in Bir-mingham's Pizza Express as part of a city concert tour.

Best known for his hits Lucky Stars and Lydia Friedman will be at the restaurant on April 21. The tour coincides with the release of a brand new fan-funded album – his first new album release in seven years. Tickets to all of Friedman's tour

dates are available via www.Dean Friedman.com

Schedule takes off

RYANAIR'S winter schedule from Birmingham Airport this year will have 21 routes in total. It includes daily flights to Barce-

lona, six flights a week to Alicante and five to Malaga.

The winter routes are now on sale

Strike action at council is averted

STRIKE action at Dudley Council has been averted after staff agreed to changes to their contracts.

The revised terms and conditions will save the council more than £1.6m over the next three years, say bosses at the cash-strapped authority.

Staff originally rejected proposals in an initial ballot to 'test the water' over the appetite for industrial action.

dustrial action.

The new agreement means that staff will be paid 10p less per mile for mileage allowances, meaning they will get 45p – the HMRC recommended

amount – compared to the 55p per mile previously paid. Staff will also have to take three days unpaid leave and member allowances will be reduced.

Overtime payments for anyone earning over £36,000 will also be stopped, in a bid to save

£77,000.

Unite union spokesman Shaun Noble, said:
"Unison and GMB members voted to accept the proposed package put forward by Dudley Council (that) Unite members voted to reject. Unite recognises that this constitutes a majority decision to ac-

cept by the locally recognised unions and therefore can be implemented by the council." UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood said: "I wel-

come the fact the unions have backed down as we would've been in a scenario where we couldn't balwould be been in a scenario where we couldn't bal-ance the budget and would've had to make more severe cuts. The staff have made the right decision, as painful as it is."

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council said: "We have been working closely with the un-ions."

Bank closes branch over safety fears after raids

By Lucy Thompson

RBS has closed its main branch in Dudley town centre over fears for the safety of staff and customers after three armed robberies.

The Royal Bank of Scotland branch was closed temporarily in February after robbers struck, but bosses have now confirmed that it

bosses have now confirmed that it will not be reopening.
Dudley North MP Ian Austin is urging the bank's bosses to reconsider.
A spokesman for RBS said: "The safety and security of our customers and staff are of utmost importance to us and unfortunately there have been a number of incidents over the lest few months, including three raids. last few months, including three raids, which has resulted in this being com-

wnich has resulted in this being compromised.
"Due to the recent security incidents, we have taken the difficult decision to keep the branch closed on a permanent basis.

permanent basis.
"Please be assured that this is a decision we have not come to lightly, but we feel we have no alternative."
The bank closed following a robbery on February 3 when a man threatened

staff with a knife and stole cash. Fol-lowing that incident the bank said it was 'reviewing' security measures.

Alternatives

Alternatives

The spokesman added: "RBS will ensure there are a range of alternatives for people in the area to continue banking with us, tailored to the needs of our communities and reflective of the way our customers live their lives."

Mr Austin said: "I'm very sorry to hear about this. We can't afford to lose another business on the High Street so I've asked RBS to look at it again. Of course the safety of their staff must be paramount but I want to know whether there are security improvements they could make that could ments they could make that could make it viable."

make it viable."

Three armed robberies took place at the bank over the space of five months on October 5, January 3 and February 3. A 47-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of robbery following the Echanters 2 is related: February 3 incident.
Staff will be moved to other

Bikers go the extra mile for charities



Presenting money to fundraiser Lisa Bockhoefer, members of Wolfruna Harley Owners Group Chapter UK members, including (front) chapter director Gary Moore at Compton Hospice

A GROUP of bikers have gone the extra mile to help raise funds for two charities close to their hearts.

Members of the Wolfruna Chapter of the Harley Owners Group (HOG) handed over cheques totalling £1,000 to Compton Hospice and Wolverhampton MS Therapy Centre in Tettenhall.

The £500 donated to Compton Hospice had been raised with fundraising events such as charity rides and cake stalls organised by Chapel Ash-based Wolfruna Chapter last year.

The same amount was donated to the Wolverhampton

The same amount was donated to the Wolverhampton MS Therapy Centre in memory of past Chapter officer Tony 'Tona' Burley who died last March. Thirty members enjoyed a ride out to deliver the cheques to the two charities. Chapter director Gary Moore, 57, of Stourbridge, who has been a member since 2008, said: "It's a fantastic feeling to be able to support the two charities. They do fantastic work and we re really pleased to be able to help them."

able to help them."
"We are hoping to organise some more fundraising events this year. We've got people from all walks of life in the Chapter and we all share the same passion for our hobby and we want to do our bit to support charities in Wolverhampton where we are based." "We currently have between 50 and 60 members but

we tend to get more members in the summer months

The Wolfruna Chapter is based at the Chapel Ash Harley-Davidson dealership.

Businessman died when Mercedes hit bridge

A DRIVER died after he crashed into a bridge at high speed while almost three times the drink-drive limit, an inquest heard.

Jagdeep Singh Bhader, from Haw-thorn Croft, Oldbury, died when his Mercedes crashed and burst into

Mercedes crashed and burst into flames on the A456 Quinton Express-way on November 7.

Black Country Coroners Court heard how that Mr Bhader, who was an entrepreneur and a company director, had been out socialising with friends and was travelling on the Birmingham bound carriageway at 2.40am when his car hit a concrete support pillar of the bridge.

Pc Stuart Thorpe, from the collision investigation unit, said: "There were no marks on the road that would allow us to provide an accurate speed,

allow us to provide an accurate speed, but looking at the damage caused to

but rooking at the damage caused to the vehicle it would have been a high speed impact at motorway speeds. "A witness said that they could see flames coming from the vehicle after the crash and they went towards it in

"It began to explode and sadly nothing further could be done."

A post mortem test found 210mg of alcohol in Mr Bhader's blood. The legal limit is 80mg.

Reactions

The hearing was told that Mr Bhader had dropped a friend off in Halesowen around ten minutes before the fatal accident.

The inquest heard that Mr Bhader had died due to severe burns.

Pc Thorpe said: "I think it was a combination of excessive speed and intoxication through alcohol and the effect it had on his reactions, that

effect it had on his reactions that sadly led to this."

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique gave a conclusion of death due to a road traffic collision.

He said: "This is a tragic set of cir-cumstances and driver error."

Brother-in-law, Sukhdave Singh Dahal read out a statement on behalf of Mr Bhader's wife Inderjit. The statement read: "This is an

enormous loss.

"My hope is that his greatness can ontinue to shine through his family

Man charged with attempted murder

A 44-year-old man has appeared be-fore Dudley magistrates charged with the attempted murder of a 73-year-old security guard.

Lee Parsons of no fixed abode is al-leged to have attacked and seriously injured the victim at the Brierley Hill factory Stoke Forgings, Vine Street at about 1pm on Sunday, March 19.

Parsons also faces an allegation of burglary. He was remanded in cus-tody until April 19, when he will ap-pear at Crown Court.

GASWAY



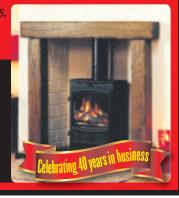
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notes put drug addict behind bars

A TRAVELLER who tried to any iPhone 7 with counterfeit notes at Merry Hill Shopping Centre has been TRAVELLER who tried to buy an

Merry Hill Shopping Centre has been jailed for three years.
Patrick McCarthy, of no fixed abode, had used more than £1,000 worth of fake notes across the country from September to January this year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.
The 23-year-old pleaded guilty to the three offences of tendering and possessing fake English and Scottish notes. He had sent an accomplice into the Vodafone shop in Merry Hill on January 5, who bought an iPhone 7 with fake Scottish notes. When, a short while after, McCarthy went into the shop to buy a phone with similar

short while after, McCarthy went into the shop to buy a phone with similar notes, staff alerted police.

Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "This was one of several offences over the matter of a few months."

McCarthy had been arrested in Daventry on September 5 when around £220 in counterfeit English £20 notes were discovered on him. He was released on bail but detained by police in Worcester less than a month later with £180 in fake £20 notes. He was also the subject of two suspended was also the subject of two suspended

was also the subject of two suspended sentences for previous offences.

Rashad Mohammed, defending, described McCarthy as from 'the travelling community'. He said: "He was addicted to class A drugs and was trying to pay off a debt related to this."

McCarthy was sentenced to two years for tendering the notes, one

year to run consecutively for the of-fences in October and September and a six-month suspended sentence.

Chief to hold talks on refuse tip move

COUNCILLORS from across the political spectrum in Dudley are to hold talks over controversial plans to close Stourbridge tip and move operations to Brierley Hill.

Dudley Council has come under fire from some residents, particularly in Stourbridge and Halesowen, over the plans. It is not certain that council bosses would get the green light as the controlling Labour group no longer has a majority at the council house.

Concerns had been raised about extra traffic being added to the roads around Brierley Hill with a knock-on impact to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre as a result.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said she would hold talks with opposition councillors in May.

Political comic is coming to venue

POLITICAL comedian Matt Forde is bringing his new show It's My Polit-ical Party (And I'll Cry If I Want To) to Stourbridge Town Hall on Octo-ber 27. Tickets are £15. See www.bor oughhalls.co.uk for more details.

Forged bank Mine shaft halts plan for pub site



The boarded-up Horse and Jockey pub

'eyesore' former pub has been reject-ed by Dudley Council due to safety

concerns.
Plans to demolish The Horse and Jockey pub, in Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley, to build eight homes was refused due to the location of a mineshaft un-

The former pub has stood empty for

A planning report states: "The site falls within a development high risk area and contains a mine entry and its zone of influence.

entry is unknown and its location has not informed the site layout to ensure that adequate separation is provided between this feature and the proposed building.

"In the absence of such information it has not been demonstrated that the it has not been demonstrated that the site is safe, stable and suitable for de-velopment."

Councillor Susan Ridney said: "I'm

disappointed by the decision as its a real eyesore and something needs to be done.

"It was a nice looking building be-

Zoo coins it with new souvenirs

happy to see that someone wanted to build apartments on there but its a shame it was turned down.

"Vandals have tried to set the building on fire a couple of times."

building on fire a couple of times."
But Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The application was refused because the developer was unwilling to provide additional information about the exact location of a mineshaft. Should that information be forthcoming, the council would be in a position to determine the application."

Save Our Leisure Centres organ-iser, former councillor Tracy Wood, has been invited to speak at the meet-ing on April 10, at 6pm. **Lady going Gaga**

Debate on petition

to save centres

A PETITION with more than 4,400 signatures opposing closure of three leisure centres across Dudley borough

Dudley Council wants to demolish

Halesowen Leisure Centre, Dudley Leisure Centre and Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge, and replace them with two new centres, probably in Lye and near Dudley town centre. The council says it will save money,

will be debated by councillors.

for Brum concerts OUTRAGEOUS American pop star Lady Gaga has added an extra concert at Birmingham's Genting Arena as part of her Joanne World Tour.

The New Yorker, who had major hits with Poker Face and LGBT an-them Born This Way, had already announced a gig at Birmingham's city centre Barclaycard Arena for Octobe 15 but has now added the date at the NEC venue on October 12.

Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are already available and tickets for the Genting Arena concert go on sale at 9am tomorrow (Friday).

M&S food after fuel stop revamp

A NEW M&S food store has opened at a revamped petrol station site in Stourbridge creating 24 jobs.

The BP service station combined with Marks and Spencer 'Simply Food' store, opened on Hagley Road last week. The site has cost around £1.5 million to rebuild.

Andrew Kenney, BP district manager said: "The new store will open late providing customers with a selected range of Marks & Spencer food alongside the best of BP fuels."

Half a million to be spent on sewer works

WORK to install larger sewers in Wordsley in a bid to prevent flood-ing problems has got under way this

week.
Severn Trent is spending £500,000
to increase the capacity of the sewer
at Bells Lane in Wordsley to help ensure Ashwood Park Primary School
and nearby homes are no longer hit by
sewer floods.
A stretch of Bells Lane will be closedustil Lune 36 to allow the work to be

duntil June 26 to allow the work to be

10mph limit on road

A TEMPORARY 10mph speed limit will be in place on Birmingham New Road at Coseley until April 7.

The new limit will be imposed be-ween Pickrell Road and Shaw Road to allow for resurfacing work to be carried out by Wolverhampton City

'Irritated' boss pulls plug on shops revamp

pulled out of plans to revamp the town centre site, blaming a 'lack of dialogue' with council bosses.

The owner of the Trident Centre says there will now be 'no investment' in Dud-

ley.

John Sykes, chairman of Atlantis Property which owns shopping centres across the country, said he had been irritated by his requests for meetings with council chiefs going ignored

for meetings with council chiefs going ignored. However, Dudley Council bosses insist they are committed to working with the company. The row appears to have scuppered a major revamp of the shopping centre, as well as other buildings on High Street.

The renovation of the shopping centre had been included in a council blueprint to change the face of the town centre.

New shops and leisure attractions were to be added to the centre while the firm also wanted to create 185 apartments.

to create 185 apartments.

But Mr Sykes says he has now decided not to go ahead with the plans due to his frustration with the authority.

He explained: "There will be absolutely no building or re-development of the Trident Centre while these people are in power. As an investor I want to meet and have a dialogue.

"We were very much for this development. We commissioned an architect and would have been submitting pre-applications but it has stopped. I have pulled the plug."

Correspondence

Dudley's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We have been in regular correspondence with the chief executive of Atlantis Property, the latest being sent to him by our chief executive Sarah Norman on Monday evening, to which we have yet to receive a response

sponse.
"We have again confirmed our willingness to

"We have again confirmed our willingness to meet with him to progress his re-development proposals and look forward to his reply." He added: "We have already been working with several private landlords to bring many derelict buildings back into use and we will continue to work with anyone who shares our

vision to bring new business and residential properties to the borough."
The Dudley Area Action Plan, published by the council, said described the Trident Centre as having 'considerable redevelopment poten-

A token to remember - both sides of Dudley Zoo's 80th anniversary commemorative coin

A SPECIAL coin to commemorate a milestone year for Dudley Zoo has gone on sale. The coin, which has no mon-etary value, has been released to coincide with the attraction's 20th anniversary and is on sale in 80th anniversary and is on sale in the Safari Shop at the Castle Hill attraction.

The coin features the new zoo

and anniversary logos

Visitors have been quick to snap up the £3.99 souvenir. Retail manager Isobel Blackwell said: "This is a new product for DZG, but they're proving very popular. "We wanted something to showcase the zoo's new logo and celebratory anniversary logo and the coin has enabled us to do that. They are limited edition though, so once they've gone." they've gone, they've gone.

The zoo celebrates its milestone i May 6.
More than £290,000 worth of

More than 1,290,000 worsh of improvements at the 200 are currently under way, which will see various enclosures revamped.
Other anniversary merchandise is on sale to mark the milestone, from pens and mugs to badges and leavings.

keyrings.

• Monkey business – page 8

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IN MY VIEW

Abiding image of bravery and kindness

POLITICIANS and

POLITICIANS and police officers sometimes get a rough ride in the media, and rightly so. Indeed for a columnist, making fun of MPs and over-zealous authority figures is meat and drink. This is a sign of living in a healthy democracy, and for the most part I believe they are self-aware enough to know it goes with the territory. If you put yourself into a position of authority, you can expect to feel the brickbats. pect to feel the brickbats.

pect to feel the Drickbats.

However, this week things seem different. The sight of the previously little-known Foreign Office minister Tobias Ellwood unsuccessfully trying to save the life of a police officer stabbed in the line of duty puts everything in a different context. And , along with all the un-named doctors, nurses, paramedics and other good citizens who ran towards the dangood citzens win ran towards the dari-ger while others were running away, it is a poignant symbol of how terror attacks, such as the one in London last week, are always doomed to fail.

While Islamic State posts sick internet

writine Islamic State posts sick interrup-posts "claiming responsibility" for the ac-tions of its "soldier", the abiding image around the world is one of bravery and kindness, real heroes helping others with no thought for their own safety. Adrian Elms, Khalld Masood, whatever

he calls himself, could not have scored a bigger own-goal for his cause if he tried.

HAVE you ever made a donation through the website Justgiving.com? If so, you probably, like me, did so believing that all the money you donated went

to charity.

In fact, one thing to emerge from the fund set up in memory of PC Keith Palmer is that the company which owns the Justgiving website rakes off five per cent commission. And if you tick the Gift Aid box, where the Government refunds the equivalent amount of income tax that the

donor would have paid, Justgiving takes five per cent of that, too.

To put this into context, five per cent is the same commission rate that Betfair charges on its betting exchange. Except that the online bookmaker makes no pretence of being anything other than a commercial business out to maximise profits.

profits.

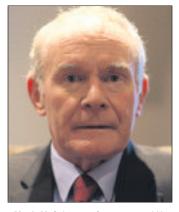
Now, of course, nobody should be expected to work for nothing, and running a website inevitably incurs some administration costs. But five per cent? Last year Justgiving made a profit of £2 million, and spent £10 million on staff costs its director technique agreement and in the cost of the cost directors, technicians, sales and adminstration staff earn, on average, more than £60,000 a year, while the head of the firm received a pay package of £198,000. All coming out of donations from the public.

I think I will be just giving directly to charities in future

Shock over report on extraction of baby teeth



Mary Berry – toffee pudding unleashed on an unsuspecting nation . . . yum!



Martin McGuinness - Government said it ver negotiated with terrorists



Dame Vera Lynn – singer's centenary will doubtless be excuse for yet more concerts

It's adults who are to blame not sugar

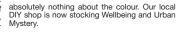
"SO sugar's to blame," an enthusiastic radio reporter declared during a report on the shocking news that extractions of baby teeth have risen by 24 per cent. No, sugar's not to blame. Adults

THESE days, there is scarcely a telly programme that doesn't come with some sort of warning that it may contain sexual incidents, extreme violence, distressing scenes or flashing lights which could cause epileptic attacks. And yet Mary Berry's sticky toffee pudding was unleashed on an unsuspecting nation this week, without a word of warning. More, more, I want more. . . As Mary takes flak from viewers for making the sticky pudding without dates and cooking a pie without a pastry base, one Tweeter noted: "She didn't use real rats in her ratatouille."

WELL done, DameVera Lynn, on reaching 100. The singer's centenary will doubtless be an excuse for yet more concerts in which people will dress up in uniforms they are not entitled to will diess by in difficient lety are not entitled to wear, sing songs they can't begin to understand and perpetuate the myth that the Second World War, far from being all bad, was a jolly sort of musical event. The rest of Europe, watching the Brits still singing about hanging out the washing on the Siegfried Line, can only despair.

THE death of Ireland's 'man of peace' Martin McGuinness is a reminder of the gulf between what Whitehall says and what it does. The official line has always been; we never negotiate with terrorists. And yet the Government was secretly talking to McGuinness and his IRA cronies as early as the 1970s, but denied it for years. The Government's true position is as follows: we never negotiate with terrorists – unless

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I HAVE just trudged to the Post Office to pay the outstanding postage on a delivery from eBay. The firm advertised "fast and free deliv-ery." It's certainly free if you don't put a stamp

A COUPLE of readers have consulted their dictionaries to discover that "diarise," a word I scoffed at recently, actually exists. I will make three points. 1) If you need to use a dictionary to find it, then it's not a proper word; 2) My dictionary describes it as archaic; and 3) After 47 years in a profession which lives, breathes and exists around diaries, I've never heard it. Nonetheless, "diarise" does exist and I have takenonboardaried your comments. arised your comments.

THE European Court of Justice has ruled that employers are entitled to ban staff from wearing "visible religious symbols," a move condemned by some Muslims as a direct attack on women wearing hijabs at work. I can't see it happening in Britain. How could any company ban the hi-jab in the office when the woman wearing it may have come to work on a bus driven by a tur-ban-wearing Sikh? The intriguing social devel-opment is that while the number of young Sikh men wearing turbans is declining, the number of young Muslim women wearing headscarves is increasing. Why would that be?

MORE names for emulsion paints that tell you POLITICAL correctness strikes in Westminster

where Roger Gale MP was castigated for calling his office staff "girls." As we should all know by now, calling women girls both infantilises and degrades them, making them appear the play-things and possessions of the outdated patriar-chy which controls our society and all that stuff-thus a society and the society word, for presumably they never have a night out with the girls.

AS the education cuts bite, some schools are abandoning German lessons. It is sad although, as a colleague who endured five years of German once told me: "German is a useful language but has too many fahrts to be taken seriously".

IF we had known then what we know now. What odds do you think the bookies would have of-fered you in the 1970s on Chuck Berry living to

I WAS buying a widget from an online store I have used many times. But this time it wanted to know whether I was a new or existing customer. As soon as it twigged I had shopped there earlier, it demanded my password which I have, of course, long forgotten. So the system emailed me a new password. But the moment I tried to use it, up came the message: "This connection is not secure. Logins entered here could be compromised." Well done, the geeks. They have scared off another customer.

I HAD a Freemasonish sort of moment, reading the many comments on George Osborne becoming editor of London's Evening Standard, posted on the journalists' website, Hold the Front Page. One comment consisted of four squiggles in Teeline. It was a pungent and obscene invitation to go away, George. It could be read only but the dwirtling band of us who standard on the standard of the whost of the standard of the whost of the standard of the stand read only by the dwindling band of us who still use shorthand.

TALKING POINT

Youngsters need to look back in wonder

OLD age creeps up on us all, but as for all this hogwash about 70 being the new 40? Do me a favour.

Having passed the half century mark, with the wrinkles, receding hair and expanding waistline, to show for it, I am quite happy to admit I'm past it.

I wish people would stop trying to maintain their youth with ridiculous fitness regimes, skin treatments and clothes shopping from a 25-year-old's perspective.
Older folk are supposed to have no idea what is going on in 'the charts' if they are still called that! Wouldn't even know if I could still go into a 'record shop'

Indea what is going on in the chairs they are still called that! I wouldn't even know if I could still go into a 'record shop' and buy something which is in the, what we would term as 'hit parade!'

Popular culture is thrown around as something us oldies should have some kind of knowledge about and we do try, honest, despite the smirks from our younger relatives – but just wait one minute, that works both ways baby...

How many times do we hear from the mouths of babes – the Beatles? Nah, I think they're rubbish, besides, my musical journey started with S Club 7...
Oh yeah? Well perhaps when the music of Lennon and McCartney is actually on the school curriculum today's youngsters, who might be in their 40s and parents themselves by then, will rue the time when they snubbed the greatest popular songwriters in history.

when they shibbled the gleatest popular songwriters in history.
Yes I know it's a cloak of youth to wear to show that they aren't into what their mums, dads and grandparents are into, but I think you find out about life as much leaking beglurgde as forwards and this

but I think you find out about life as much looking backwards as forwards and this is, in a nutshell, the problem we have as we face a post-Brexit Britain, or should that be England, and whoever else is left. The next generation will be completely future-biased, if they aren't already. Nostalgia-yearning-syndrome may by then be a recognised psychological disorder and sufferers will be locked away in such which the power with virtual reality care. olush white rooms with virtual reality gear,

plush white rooms with virtual reality gear, forced into playing the latest life-changing 'video game', or whatever they are called these days – sorry!

I only hope that children I see around me loosen up a little bit as they get older as getting my oldest lad to even consider the acceptability of participal in a packet.

as getting my oldest lad to even consider the possibility of partaking in an alcoholic beverage seems less likely than Glenn Miller's remains being found buried under the Great Wall of China. I can remember that by the age of 12, I was being ushered into the backs of pubs, having my first taste of at least shandy.

Everything these days seems so strait-laced for youngsters, or is it youngsters seem so strait-laced? We need another punk revolution, perhaps it's time for us over-50s to dig out the safety-pin leather jackets and spike up what's left of our hair, start doing a bit of pogo-ing, to get them in the mood for a bit of anarchy. Better be careful of our dodgy backs though...

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go out and get as blotto as they wish, or to convict as often the victim cannot rememdo whatever with their own bodies, from her years of experience of rape cases it was quite obvious that potential rapists will gravitate always be aware that there are some just

lifestyle. She did not in any way blame the woman but was merely pointing out the

A LADY judge states the obvious and inevi- facts. She also added that it was often the On her last day as a judge she advised are not reported and, even when they are, that although it is every woman's right to

obvious that potential rapists will gravitate always be aware that there are some just to a woman who, because she may be drunk, sia ne asier victim.

She did not in any way try to dictate common sense, not sexism, to suggest that common sense, not sexism, to suggest that you avoid a potentially dangerous situation.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE

Dudley

Nazi victory **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** would have been worse

THE SS-GB TV series about life under German rule, assuming that they had won the war, is very interesting.

I suspect that it would

actually have been even worse. I remember a visiting priest told us in his sermon that he had met a German whose job was to arrange whose Job was to arrange the transportation of every British man to Germany, once they had won the war. Presumably once in Ger-many they would have been kept in labour camps. It seems that Hitler had

decided that the only way he could rule Great Britain was if he virtually annihi-lated the nation. And he was

probably right.
Another scenario I envisage is, if the Germans had invaded and got a foothold in Britain, then the British Government under Church-

ill may have attempted to give a gun to every man in the country.

These and other possi-bilities are horrific. Thank God we won the Battle of Britain

MR G BETTELEY

POST Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Age discrimination will get on your PIP

AS I worked with Motability for 30 years until retire-ment I read with interest the opinions regarding the benefit to some of those unfortunate to need it.
In The Chronicle was a

letter complaining about the new benefit PIP (Personal Independence Payment), which has replaced the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance. I think it should be pointed out that as this benefit has been around for many years, starting for limbless ex-ser-vicemen following the war.

Things have to change, many more people are helped now. But there are limits to what the taxpayer can fund and, although the Government increases the amount every year, it will not keep up with demand, especially as it is often paid

especially as it is often paid indefinitely.

It does not cease at 65 even though it cannot be claimed for at that age, something I am surprised has not been challenged in court as age discrimination.
RON GWILLIAMS

may be next

PERHAPS our Lordships in the House of Lords should remember that one of the main reasons why many have voted to leave Europe was not immigration or any of the other things the re-mainers tell us we did not understand, but it was also to remove the unelected buto remove the unelected our reaucrats telling us what we can do and what we cannot do with nothing we can do about them.

We can vote out our own

Government if they prove unsatisfactory or fail to do

as we want.

I would ask their Lordships, could you be the next layer of unelected bureau-crats to lose out on the next

crats to lose out on the next referendum if you defy the wish of the people? This applies particularly to those Lordships who have a vested interest in remaing because they may lose their European income. EWART J JOHNSON Warley

Speeders will take no notice

WITH reference to your arwith reference to your article re speed limits. To me this is a waste of time as so few people take notice even with lights flashing.

On the A456 in Hayley

Green I am regularly being overtaken by people doing 50 to 60-plus miles an hour even when the lights are flashing. The only time they travel slower is when it is very busy. Most of the time they are speeding, particularly at weekends. Some people think laws don't apply to them. I would also mention Hagley Wood Lane, which is a winding lane.

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Zoo monkeys around with a revamp



Curator Richard Brown take a look at the new enclosure for Dudley Zoo's yellow-breasted capuchin monkeys

DUDLEY Zoo's £295,000 revamp is well under way as a new enclosure for attractions capuchin monkeys takes

snape.

The extended area for the yellow-breasted capuchins includes new climbing frames and poles which keepers hope will help the rainforest natives feel at home.

Curator Richard Brown said: "The enclosure is coming on very well and we're just in the process of putting in the final touches.

the mnal touches.
"Capuchins are incredibly intelligent and have even been known to use tools. They're interested in everything and don't sit still for five minutes. We're hoping that the new enclosure will be a massive enrichment for them."

The keepers are eagerly anticipating

the pitter-patter of tiny capuchin feet as it is hoped that the extra space will allow the zoo to breed the critically en-dangered primates.

Five capuchins have been born at the zoo in the past but permission for further breeding must be granted by a zoo in France which monitors their breeding programme.

Endangered

The monkeys, which stand at about 40cm tall, are critically endangered due to deforestation and the illegal pet trade after films such as The Hangover Part 2 and Night at the Museum.
The original budget for the enclosure refurbishment was £20,000 but has increased to between £25,000 and

has increased to between £25,000 and £30,000 as additions have been made

The zoo has more developments planned for this year including an ex-tended farmyard and classroom area. Mr Brown added: "One of the main

reasons behind the zoo is education.
Children learn so much more when
they can be hands on with the animals.
"We're hoping to keep the refurbish-

we're noping to keep the returbishment ongoing and do something new every year."

Another development at the zoo is the arrival of three bush dogs, a semi-aquatic mammal that looks like it might be related to an otter but is cettally in the capine family.

actually in the canine family.

Meanwhile, the Castle Hill attraction is also gearing up for its 80th anniversary celebrations in May, which will include a sponsored 'onesie' walk to raise money for the zoo's new snow leopard enclosure.







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Let me live in peace, says former suspect

1978 murder of paperboy Carl Bridgewater murder has spoken of his delight that Staffordshire Police has decided not to re-open its investigation.

But an author from Bridgnorth, who has campaigned to get the case re-opened, called it 'a sad day

case re-opened, caned it a sad day for justice'.

Ex-ambulanceman Bert Spencer, a convicted murderer for the shooting of an acquaintance, has lived under a cloud of suspicion that he killed the 13-year-old newspaper delivery boy. He was interviewed by criminologist Professor David Wilson for a TV documentary, which cast doubt on his alibi

mentary, which cast doubt on his alibi.

Calls were made after the screening in June for police to investigate claims by the programme makers. The Staffordshire force launched a review but announced last week that it was taking no further action.

Нарру

Mr Spencer, 77, said: "I needed this police report. I knew what it would say but I needed them to say it. I'm a banny men."

happy man." He has always denied the shooting

He has always denied the shooting of schoolboy, Carl who is believed to have disturbed a burglary at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, when delivering newspapers.

Mr Spencer, a former neighbour of the Bridgewater family in Wordsley, was chief suspect in the police inquiry but he was ruled out after a work colleague gave an account placing Mr Spencer away from the scene of the crime.

Mr Spencer later served time in prison for shooting dead 70-year-old Hubert Wilkes at a farmhouse close to the scene of Carl's death.

His name continued to come up in the police will kill it completely," he



Bert Spencer

each new review of the case, which also resulted in a miscarriage of jus-tice. The 'Bridgewater Four' – Patrick Molloy, James Robinson and cousins Michael Hickey and Vincent Hickey -

Michael Hickey and Vincent Hickey-were convicted, imprisoned but cleared 18 years later. Molloy died in prison. This week police said there were 'no grounds' to interview Spencer again. The pensioner, who now lives in Lincolnshire, said he hopes that he can live out his latter years in peace. Following the 90-minute Channel 4 programme, parents of pupils at a nearby school voiced concerns about the proximity of an alleged child-killer. He later suffered a mild stroke. "That has all calmed down now and

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Carl Bridgewater

said. "It's been frustrating living with Wilson's accusations hanging over me but there was nothing to find, the pro-

but there was nothing to find, the programme was based on speculation and deceit. I don't know if this will ever go away completely."

But Simon Golding, from Bridgnorth, who has written a book, Scapegoat for Murder: The Truth About the Killing of Carl Bridgewater, and worked on the TV documentary, vowed to carry on campaigning for the case to be re-opened.

"I will not let this tragedy be swept under the carpet," he said. "There was no great great shock in reading that the police are not going to re-open the

the police are not going to re-open the

"It's a very sad day for justice and the search for the truth."

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A POPULAR pub in the Black Country has been named Real Ale pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year by the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

The Waggon and Horses, in Stourbridge Road, Hale-sowen, run by husband and wife team Dawn and Mick O'Neil, was presented with the award at the weekend.

Phil Zjalic, from Camra, said: "Like the phoenix rising from the ashes, the

Stourbridge Chronicle

Wagon and Horses public house has risen to an ac-claimed height since it's closure in January 2016 and the refurbished re-launch in March 2016

"Dawn stated that she had welcomed the challenge of managing the refurbished public house, that was a landmark in the Halesowen

area.
"With the support of the local people, she felt that she had reached a recog-nised achievement by being nominated and awarded."



Sunjay will be starring as rock 'n' roll legend Buddy Holly on stage there's a lot he's had to learn

Sunjay hits the right USA style of notes as Buddy Holly

THE first song he learned on guitar was Peggy Sue by Buddy Holly and now 23-year-old Brierley Hill musician Sunjay will take on the part of the rock 'n' roll icon in a show touring the UK.
The musical, entitled Buddy Holly

and The Cricketers, will visit Staf-ford's Gatehouse Theatre on Fri-day, May 19. It will also visit venues across the country, from Aberdeen

to Barking on its 18-date run.
This will be the first time Sunjay has performed in theatre and, being an artist who usually plays acoustic blues and on his own. He says

"I've never been in theatre before. other than playing live gigs at thea-tre venues," said the former Royal Wolverhampton School pupil, who goes by the one name but former classmates will remember as Sunjay

"I did a pantomime when I was little but I've never done anything like this. The show is made up mainly of music with a little bit of acting.

"It's different for me, as I nor

mally only play acoustic - and this is all electric.

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ale launched

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Talented poet published after her tragic death

bus stop by a motorist racing at 100mph on a Black Country road is to have a book of

her poems published.
Former Stourbridge student
Rebecca McManus, 21, died after
a Mitsubishi Evolution hit into her as she waited for a bus beside Hagley Road West, Bearwood, in

May 2014.

Rebecca died at the scene, only a few hundred yards from her home, and her friend Harriet Barnsley suffered life-changing injuries in the incident which was the result of two men rac-

The promising poet from Oldbury was a Literature and Creative Writing student at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, where an event launching the book was being held in her memory last week.

Her friends, tutors and current stu-

dents were reading her poems at the

Almost three years after her death, Rebecca's work is being published posthumously by her parents.

Gift

The 180-page book, entitled A Book of Fragments and Dreams, published by Unthank Publications, was the brainchild of Rebecca's mother Cathy

McManus.
Mrs McManus said: "She had a natural gift for poetry and had individual poems previously published, and it seems fitting, as it was one of Rebec-

seems fitting, as it was one of itector ca's ambitions.

"Rebecca had always hoped to have at least one book published and she had already chosen the title for the book. We hope it will provide inspiration for a they wound profes."

tion for other young poets."

The book features 159 poems, with subject matters including the chang-



The cover of the book that features more than 150 of Rebecca's poems

ing of the seasons, romance and the wonders of the sky. Proceeds from the book will be donated to charity. Two men were jailed for their roles

in the fatal crash.

Garage manager Sukvinder Man-nan, of Roundhills Road, Halesowen, man, or Roundams Road, Halesowen, who was at the wheel of the Mitsub-ishi which struck Rebecca, admitted causing death and injury by danger-ous driving and was sentenced to eight

years in prison.

He had been driving at 101mph in a

The motorist he had been racing, Inderjit Singh, of Cranbourne Avenue, Wolverhampton, was jailed for a year



Student Rebecca McManus had always hoped to publish a book

after admitting dangerous driving in his BMW M3

The book is available for £9.99 and can be ordered from bookshops as well as online from Amazon, The Wordery and Book Depository.

The court heard how Mannan ca-reered into a bus stop where he struck childhood friends Rebecca and Harriet. Singh pulled out of the race just seconds before the impact.

Following the court case, Rebecca's family said their lives were 'empty without her' and that they had been 'sentenced to a lifetime of pain and



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A £1 million 'academy' for visiting school groups will be unveiled at the West Mid-lands Safari Park this summer.

lands Safari Park this summer. Featuring five classrooms, the Safari Academy has been designed for visiting pupils. Each classroom will be equipped to provide interactive education for all ages, from nurseries to university students and from nurseries to university students and adult learners. Groups can take part in a variety of activities, including curriculum linked tours and hands-on discovery sessions, including encounters with some of the park's smaller, friendlier animals.

Caroline Richards, the head of learning at the safari park, said: "This new state-of-the-art eco-building will allow us to grow our educational services to meet the needs."

our educational services to meet the needs

our educational services to meet the needs of the local community and inspire even more young conservationists of the future." The Safari Academy at the attraction near Kidderminster will also be home to accredited level two and three animal care

New classrooms at safari park Academy first to win gold Homes plan for old landfill site award for preparing pupils

Black Country academy are celebrating after becoming the first school in the country to be credited as a 'gold' standard institution.

The award recognises excel-lence in careers advice at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy (OSCA).

The school in Tividale is celebrating

after achieving the highest standard in the quality in careers standard award programme, credited by Prospects. It is awarded to schools and educa-

vital support given to students to help decide about their next steps after leaving school.

importance placed on careers, and the

It follows the academy securing The Investors in People Silver Award and the Basic Skills Quality Mark.

Success

The announcement also follows the success of Debbie Laird, the academy's success of Denbie Laird, the academy's lead for careers education, who has recently been nationally recognised for her commitment. She won the Securing Futures accolade at the Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) awards.

a careers and personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) pro-gramme that ensures students are gramme that ensures students are inspired, confident and equipped for their next steps in life.

their next steps in life.

Ms Laird said: "To achieve the gold standard is a great achievement for our academy. This award showcases our excellent practice and how we encourage our students to be aware of their next steps and what opportunitheir next steps and what opportunities are available to them beyond the school gates.

"Our staff and students are de-

lighted with the recognition.



Debbie Laird

DOZENS of homes for the elderly are set

The land, off Moor Lane in Rowley Regis, is earmarked for 60 one-bedroom flats and 30 two-bedroom flats with communal facilities for adult social care.

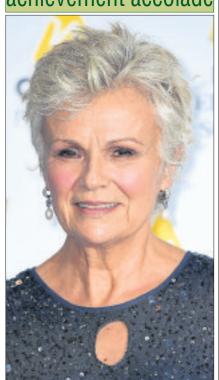
The Sandwell Council scheme went before members of the cabinet last week, where plans to submit a planning application were approved.

A council report states: "The site was historically used for landfill purposes and this proposal would result in it being brought back into beneficial use."

The site, which is near Rowley Regis Hospital, has previously been occasion-ally used by travelling circuses and fair-

Council leader Steve Eling said: "We have got a lot of elderly people in the borough and this is really a positive move."

Julie gets a lifetime achievement accolade



Julie Walters has become one of Britain's favourite actors

BLACK Country star Julie Walters has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award by the Royal Television

The Harry Potter actress, who is also well-known for her ork with the late Victoria Wood, picked up her award at a ceremony in London last week.

It recognised the Smethwick-born former nurse for a ca-

It recognised the Smethwick-born former nurse for a career in film and television that began on stage in Liverpool and has spanned more than 40 years.

The 67-year-old joked that it was the 'old people's award'. She added: "It's absolutely gorgeous, I'm thrilled."

Julie found fame in 1983 when she played a hairdresser with a thirst for knowledge, opposite Michael Caine as a boozy literature professor, in the hit movie Educating Rita. She went on to have major roles in Billy Elliot, Personal Services, Calendar Girls, Mamma Mial, epic TV series Indian Summes and as Molly Weasley in seven of the Harry Potter films.

Her plans this year include work on a new Mary Poppins movie, second Paddington movie and a trains documentary.

Day of praise for care and social workers

THE 'brilliant contribution' of social workers and care

professionals will has been honoured by councillors.

Dudley Council was marking World Social Work Day last Friday by thanking its existing care workforce on social media.

But it has also urged those looking for work to look at a

a number of existing vacancies being advertised within chil-dren and adult's social care.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We are pleased to have been described as being focussed, ambitious and creative by Government social care commissioner Eleanor Brazil, and are well on our way with our improvement journey in Dudley.

way with our improvement journey in Dudley.

"We want to sing the benefits of the comprehensive learning and development programme we offer for all social workers, and we guarantee our employees will be supported every step of the way."

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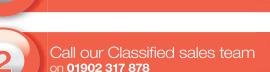


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The tracks of my years at Severn Valley Railway

a 29-year-old train driver, became one of the first men to drive a locomotive on the

Severn Valley Railway.

John, now 78, is now looking back at his time on the iconic railway, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the first locomotive on the heritage line – after the Dr Beech-ing axe removed the Kiddermin-

ing axe removed the Kidderminster to Bridgnorth line from the national rail network.

The railway itself is 52 years old but Saturday marked exactly 50 years to the day since the railway's first locomotive, No. 3205, steamed into Bridgnorth's platform 2, the first train at the station since Dr Beeching made the line obsolete four years earlier in 1963

1963.
The engine's long journey from Buckfastleigh to Stourbridge began in February 1967 when it was diesel-hauled to Stourbridge and prepared to travel 30 miles, under her own steam, into Bridgnorth the following month. lowing month.

Thousands

Driven by Cyril Williams, from Stourbridge, and Mr Hill, of Northfield, and, and fired by Gerry Carter, the engine steamed first into Platform 2 just after midday where the train crew was met by the Mayor of Bridgnorth.

The event drew crowds of thousands

over a three-day celebration with the engine and two coaches making the short trip from Bridgnorth to Oldbury Viaduct and back.

Viaduct and back.
Though the engine itself is no longer with the railway, the man who drove it is still heavily involved with the SVR Mr Hill, who now lives in Bewdley said: "I was a driver for British Rail

based at Tyselev.



John Hill was on the footplate of the first steam train to return to Bridgnorth



John Hill pictured in 1980 engine driving at the Severn Valley Railway

"Because steam had been phased out on British Rail, I was driving diesels and when I heard about the Severn Valley Railway I sent off for membership."

Mr Hill joined the railway in 1966, and a year later was recruited to drive the 3205. The grandfather recalled: "I was the only British Rail driver on the Severn Valley at the time so I got

the job. It was absolutely fantastic so many people were at the station to welcome us in, clapping and cheering." The arrival of 3205 came less than

The arrival of 3205 came less than two years after the inauguration of the Severn Valley Railway Society and helped the Society meet its fundraising target of 225,000 to buy and restore the six-and-a-half mile track between Bridgnorth and Hampton Loade.



A ROMANIAN man living in Stourbridge managed to get into the UK on a forged passport, a court heard. Florin Grindei had a false Romanian pass-

port but was still able to leave and re-enter the country, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Charges against Mr Grindei, aged 42, of Armstrong Road, were dropped as it

42, of Armstrong Road, were dropped as it was accepted that he did not know the passport was bogus.

Recorder Jason Widoger stressed it was important identification documents were genuine. He formally found Grindei not guilty of two charges of possessing a false identification document and told him: "This is a slightly odd case. You were entitled to have the document but they in the present have the documents but they just happened to be forged ones. "I am sure you understand, particularly

at this present time, how important it is that identification documents are genuine and properly issued by the right authority."

Man didn't know passport was fake **Education Watchdog again tells** More parents are fined for absences **BMet College it has to improve**

Country has been told that it still requires improvement by education watchdog Ofsted.

Birmingham Metropolitan College pro-

Birmingham Metropolitan College provides further and higher education to around 20,000 learners across four sites, including Stourbridge and Brierley Hill. Ofsted says BMet 'requires improvement' following an inspection in February. The same judgement was also given after its inspection in May 2015.

Key concerns included attendance rates, the lack of challenge to students and poor progress. In their latest report, Ofsted inspectors state:

and do not sufficiently promote or reinforce the demands of employers, such as full attendance,

punctuality and dress code.

"Teachers set too many unchallenging tasks where learners work at the same level and become bored and do not concentrate sufficiently. In these cases, learners make slow progress and fail to demonstrate the culture of respect that teachers are trying to create.

The majority of those studying at the college full-time are aged 16 to 18. However, there was some praise for how the college had 'stabilised' its financial difficulties.

Andrew Cleaves, principal and chief executive at BMet, said: "The recent report from Of-

learning and assessment at BMet has improved across the board since our previous inspection.

"However, we are only part of the way through this journey and we acknowledge that there is much work to do.

there is much work to do.

"Whilst it has been a challenging time for BMet over the last two years, we have made good progress. We are particularly pleased that Ofsted rated our apprenticeship provision as

being good.
"BMet has high aspirations. With the continued hard work of our dedicated team, I am confident that we will meet the challenges ahead and will continue to provide excellent education for many thousands of learners."

THE number of fines handed out to parents for failing to get their child to regu-larly attend school more than doubled in e areas of the West Midlands

larly attend scnool more than doubled in some areas of the West Midlands. In Dudley the number of fines increased from 370 to 844, with 172 prosecuted, and in Sandwell they almost doubled from 113 to 216, with four prosecuted.

In Walsall the number of fines went up from 1,517 to 1,770 but no one was prosecuted last year. The only exception to this trend was Wolverhampton where fines fell from 698 to 645 with 42 prosecuted.

Dudley Council's Tony Oakman said: "It is the continued policy of Dudley borough schools that leave of absence for pupils during term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. This figure includes term-time holidays as well as episodes of truancy or children simply not attending school."





DATE DAYS 10/4 Paignton/Torquay (more dates) Tenby (more dates) Eastbourne (more dates) 17/4 Isle of Wight (more dates) Weymouth (more dates)

Weston Super Mare (more dates)
Dover/Canterbury 1/5 15/5 22/5 22/5 Cornwall (Looe)(more dates)
Highland Railways

Snowdonia and Trains 5/6 **Bournemouth (more dates) Warners Thornsby Hall** Norfolk Broads

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their hypnotic grooves and slinky rhythms.

The Calfornia-based quartet are built upon the firm foundations of harmonising vocals from guitarists Emily Kokal and Theresa Wayman, and the propulsive rhythm section of bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg and Aussie drummer Stella Mozgawa.

They have released three albums over six years, forg-

They have released three albums over six years, forging a distinctive sound that has brought them a loyal following.

It ensured a full house at the ornate Digbeth venue

The ornate Digbeth venue as the dream pop four aptly began with Intro from their eponymous second album.

The band is obviously a tight-knit unit, which is vital for their undulating, free-flowing funky sound, invigorated by sharp bursts of caustic guitar.

Each band member seems to have their own portion of the fans' adulation but for me it was Emily Kokal who really stepped up to the frontwoman role, holding the attention as she weaved around the stage in a dreamy reverie.

weaved around the stage in a dreamy reverie.

Highlights of their 85-minute set included fans' favourites Undertow and Love Is To Die, the hazy Above Control, the driven pop nugget New Song from latest album Heads Up and hard-hitting finale Disco// Verv.



Fans delight at Arena with Dear Darlin' Olly

Olly Murs, Genting Arena, NEC CHARISMATIC Essex boy Olly Murs showed why he is British pop's nol star with a high-energy two-hour show on the second of his three night stint at the NEC's

second of his three night stint at the NEC's mega-venue.

The 32-year-old singer whipped up the 90 per cent female audience by announcing that he was 'feeling frisky' and, to roars of delight, was in bum wiggling form.

Looking dapper in a dark suit, he kicked off his concert with one of his more recent.

Looking dapper in a dark suit, he kicked off his concert with one of his more recent hits, You Don't Know Love, from last year's 24 Hrs album which gives the tour its title. Then came the 'Up' hits, Wrapped Up, Grow Up and Up, that latter with one of his backing singers standing in for Demi Lovato on the country-tinged pop gem.

It soon became apparent Olly wears his adulation lightly with lots of self-deprecating banter between songs. Unlike some of his contemporaries is was clear that he was singing every single note (yes, we're mean Bieber), even when strutting the T-shaped catwalk in front of the stage and throwing down some nifty dance moves, often joined

catwalk in front of the stage and throwing down some nifty dance moves, often joined by his posse of four backing singers. He varied the pace with some heartfelt ballads, including Flaws and I Need You Now, and encouraged an audience singalong when he merged his song Back Around with a version of Tina Turner's What's Love Got To Do With It. He also got them to sing part of Take That song Never Forget to feature

on the weekend's Saturday Night Takeaway TV show

TV show.

The gig went up a gear with his funky pop chart-topper Heart Skips A Beat and, probably his most enduring and memorable song, Dear Darlin'.

Then the pop star/TV presenter urged his fans to put their phones away and dance, dance to a ten minute mash-up of dancefloor classics which also showed the prowess of his seven-piece band. The medley included Olly's versions of That's The Way I Like It, Never Too Much, She's Got That Vibe, Jump Around and U Can't Touch This, as the irrepressible entertainer Got I hat vibe, Jump Around and U can't Touch This, as the irrepressible entertainer went on a romp around the arena, high-fiving fans before making it back to the stage for a solid version of Justin Timberlake's Can't Stop The Feeling.

The spectacular concert, which came complete with fireworks, clouds of dry ice, laser beams and giant screens came to a

laser beams and giant screens, came to a crescendo with his biggest hits, Trouble-maker and Dance With Me Tonight, before a satisfying encore of Kiss Me and, after thanking his fans for 'getting me out of the call centre', he dedicated final song Years & Years to his audience. Nice one Olly.

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Easter at Ryemarket



Time to take on 'The Pump Challenge' at the Ryemarket in Stourbridge

The little ones love Easter and with the egg hunts, cute rabbits and seemingly endless chocolate, why wouldn't they? The Ryemarket shopping centre in

The Ryemarket shopping centre in Stourbridge has the perfect schedule of activities during the Easter holidays to entertain the children. The Ryemarket is teaming up

The Ryemarket is teaming up with Hallmark and Thorntons for a free Easter Egg hunt and colouring competition in the town centre shopping centre, daily from Monday, April 10, to Friday, April 14.

Every child who enters the egg

Every child who enters the egg hunt and takes part in the colouring competition will receive a chocolate lolly and will be entered into a prize draw to win a magnificent Easter egg, generously donated by Thorntons.



Health and fitness is also on the agenda when Pump Gyms host 'The Pump Challenge' at the centre between April 10 and 13.

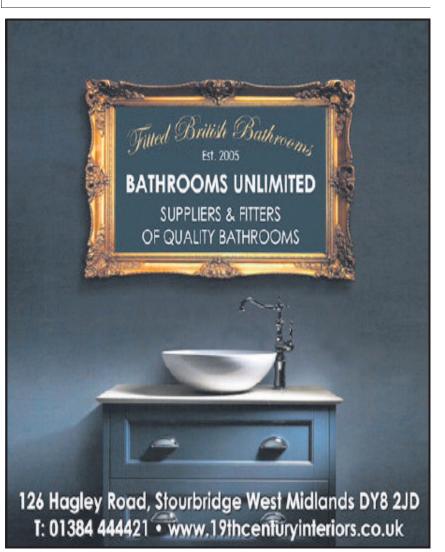
It is a rowing challenge for both adults and children. The winners will receive a six-month membership to the ovm.

Pump Gyms is a 24-hour gymnasium, the first finger print access controlled gym in the country, so members can let themselves in and out at any time.

Located in the heart of the town, The Ryemarket has a diverse range of nearly 30 stores with ample nearby car parking and supermarket Waitrose as its main anchor, alongside other top high street brands, coffee shops and independent traders.

The shopping centre on High Street works closely with and supports many community groups and organisations in Stourbridge and the surrounding area.

Visit Ryemarket's website www. ryemarketshoppingcentre.co.uk for more details of what's going on.





Special events like signed shirt sales will boost fundraising at the hospice's big charity match fundraiser

egends will take to the pitch

The Mayor of Dudley has confirmed he will be attending the charity football match between Stourbridge Legends and West Bromwich Albion Legends, on Sunday in aid of the Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Since its debut year in 2016, the charity match between the Glassboys and Albion legends has raised more than £15,000 for the hospice.

Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif has confirmed that he will be attending the game and welcoming the crowds as the gates open at 1pm. He will also be starting the Mascot Race that will see the likes of Baggie Bird and Wolfie from Wolverhampton Wanderers take on an oversized obstacle course

Amanda Bowen, Deputy Head of Fundraising and Lottery at Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "This event has gone from strength to strenath. Everywhere we go we're getting people asking us questions and talking to us about the football match and the buzz it's creating is just fantastic. We're incredibly excited for the day, and would just like to extend our thanks to the mayor for coming along to help."

The charity match sees the teams compete for the Jane Webb Memorial Trophy, named in tribute to Stourbridge woman Jane Webb, who sadly passed away in 2015. She was a supporter of the charity and the event was set up to

benefit the Hagley Road Hospice by her son Matt.

Stourbridge Legends captain Matt said: "It seems like every day there's something new and exciting being confirmed for the day. It's just a wonderful feeling to see it generate so much support."
Tickets cost £5 for the match at

the War Memorial Athletic Ground, Amblecote, DY8 4HN, with under-16s getting in for free.

The West Bromwich Albion Legends so far confirmed include Darren Moore, Geoff Horsfield, Bobby Gould, Nigel Quashie and Paul Peschisolido. For latest details see www marystevenshospice.co.uk





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Take chance to visit historic buildings





Dudmaston Hall at Quatt continues to be a popular draw with visitors to the Bridgnorth area

Historic buildings across the Bridgnorth district will be drawing visitors to Shropshire from near and far over the Easter holiday.

The buildings, some owned by the National Trust, are performing well in terms of visitor

Among them is 17th Century Dudmaston Hall, located near Quatt, near Bridgnorth.

Owned by the National Trust, it is a traditional Shropshire country estate, with a main hall, landscaped gardens, parkland, managed

LW.FOXALL

woodlands, lakeside, farmland and estate cottages.

Dudmaston Hall has been a family home for more than 875 years and the family rooms are scattered with photographs.

The unexpected galleries create a total contrast, with their formal, crisp lines. The gardens, meanwhile, provide tranquillity while the orchard is the perfect place to relax and for the children to let off steam

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to nature, head to Big Pool and Dingle woods, while the wider estate provides extensive walking routes for year-round enjoyment.

Upton Cressett Hall, in Upton Cressett, is an Elizabethan moated manor house which is open to groups of eight each Thursday.

Both the hall and gatehouse are Grade I listed buildings

Next to the hall is the historic Norman church of St Michael with its 12th Century wall paintings and 12th Century font. The great hall is thought to be the oldest dated house built

entirely of brick in Shropshire.
Close to Bridgnorth's centre is the 18th Century Daniel's Mill.

It is a fully working watermill set in the Shropshire countryside, deep in a wooded valley crossed by the 19th Century viaduct carrying the Severn Valley Railway to and from

A little further afield is delightful Benthall Hall in Broseley, which welcomed 16,981 people in 2015/16, considerably up on the figure of 6,812 for the 2010/11 period

The hall is a 16th Century country house which is still occupied by the Benthall family

The house features a carved oak 17th Century staircase and decorated plaster ceilings and

oak panelling.

In the garden there are crocus displays to be seen this spring. There is also an intimate and carefully restored plantsman's garden, an old kitchen garden and a Restoration church.







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Town still a magnet for rail travellers

in an engineer's living room on a Tuesday night in 1965. It is now visited by 250,000 people every year, with Bridgnorth's station a popular starting point. An angry group united after Kidderminster's

last through train to London on the Cathedrals Express, which ran to Hereford and Worcester, was lost following the infamous Beeching cuts. That plan axed about a third of the UK's railway network and tens of thousands of jobs

The group wanted to know how much support there was around the Wyre Forest area for a

And what a success it has been since then. At the time the group set out to preserve the railway, steam locomotives cost up to £600. while a coach cost about £200. The Severn Valley Railway Preservation Society said about £10,000 would be required for the whole

The Bridgnorth station is mostly original dating back to 1862. The railway has ten locomotives, some dating from the start of the 20th century, and others from as far as Port Talbot in Wales and the Great Western bordering postcodes can get a local residents' railcard, which entitles the holder to a reduction for trips on the line

Volunteers

One of the railway's most well-known recent visitors was TV presenter Jeremy Paxman, who visited Bridgnorth as part of filming for his Channel 4 series, Rivers, last August.

Mr Paxman was putting together a strand about the Severn and passed through the town to meet Severn Valley Railway volunteers.

brother George will pay a special visit to the railway this May. Visitors can enjoy an exciting ride on one of the SVR's heritage steam locomotives, for a journey of adventure to meet Peppa Pig and George on May 6 and 7.

The famous children's TV characters will be appearing at intervals at The Engine House

Visitor Centre at Highley throughout each day.
For more information, visit www.svr.co.uk, call 01562 757900 or see the Severn Valley Railway Families page on Facebook

Of course, Bridgnorth has also had its

alongside the River Severn to the High Town, since 1892. It is the country's steepest and oldest inland electric funicular railway.

Just like others designed by civil engineering duo, George Newnes and George Croydon Marks, the railway's cars were first driven by a system of water balance but were later

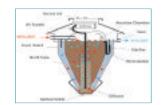
Bridgnorth's railway, which ensures residents and visitors do not need to climb the seven sets of steps from the Low Town to the High Town, is one of the remaining few in the country



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Towns built on trade and industry

Kidderminster is well known as a place which for hundreds of years was the heart of the carpet industry.

As early as the 13th century it had established

itself as a cloth-making centre, making good use of its location on the River Stour.

Other people begun to expand further into shoemaking, tailoring and saddle and glove

By the 17th century thousands of spinners were contributing to the town's various fledgling

Sheltered by its surrounding hills, there was always a good ample water supply and its river was suitable enough for a bridge to support other expansion.

The town's cloth industry grew stronger in the late 18th century.

Famous sons campaigned valiantly for improvements. William Roden worked to bring an infirmary to Kidderminster and for about 30 years to improve the town's water supply.

Prosperity

While its football team Kidderminster Harriers hit the headlines in 1994 when it reached the last 16 of the FA Cup. They shocked Birmingham City with an away win in the third round, then beat Preston in the fourth round before their unexpected run came to an end against West Ham.

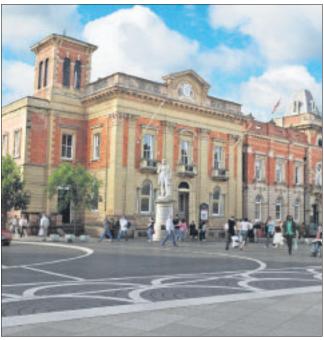
Bewdley's location on the River Severn has delivered prosperity to the town for hundreds of years – but occasional flooding has also meant it has been destructive.

Work costing £11 million was carried out at the turn of the century to prevent flooding like the town saw in 2000 happening again.

The Environment Agency estimate there were some houses in the town which had flooded at least 30 times in the 20th century before the defences were installed.

Yet the Georgian riverside town has retained its charm and its preserved listed buildings include St Anne's Church, the Town Hall and Drayton House

in the town centre for a place that has played



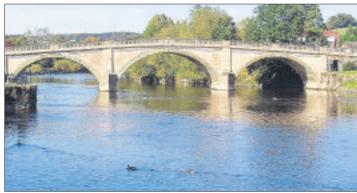
Kidderminster Town Hall - The town was famous for its carpet trade

a key part in British history. Bewdley's MP. Stanley Baldwin, was British Prime Minister three times between 1923 and 1937 and when he was elevated to the House of Lords and became 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, after the town in which he was born.

Renowned Scottish architect Thomas Telford designed the town's bridge, which was built

to replace its medieval bridge swept away in floods in the 18th century. Meanwhile its neighbour Stourport-on-Severn is located about 40 miles away from the sea but has the air of a holiday resort and is a well-preserved example of an 18th and early 19th century canal

There were just 12 people recorded as living



Bewdley's location on the River Severn has delivered prosperity - but occasional flooding



Stourport boasts more than 50 moorings for people to park up their barges

in Stourport in the 1760s but then there were over 1,000 30 years later and it continued to prosper into the 19th century.

By then the expansion of the railways had made things difficult for Stourport, while other trade was carried along the Birmingham to Gloucester line from 1840.

It became well known for its power station

and wire and chain manufacture, but today it is principally as a tourist hot spot.

It was once one of the busiest inland ports and a junction was built for the River Severn and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Even today, there are still more than 50 moorings for people to park up their barges

Kidderminster Town Hall



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Harvington Hall is believed to have the most surviving priest holes in the country, thought to have been created by Nicholas Owen

Plenty to see and do across region

There is more than enough to do around the Wyre Forest, especially at the extremely popular West Midlands Safari Park.

From April 8, the park between Kidderminster and Bewdley will play host to a number of Easter activities for adults and children.

The latter will be asked to find the missing

Easter eggs on a free trail.
Other visitors will be able to explore its 200 acres, taking in the four-mile drive safari. Most recent arrivals include a pack of African

wild hunting dogs, white tigers, giraffes, rhinoceroses and wallables The park will see a new state-of-the-art education centre, with five classrooms, opened this summer, ready for visits from children who attend pre-schools and nurseries up to adults.

The Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust was given £5 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund to buy the castle outright and to secure its long-

The castle was home to the Bishop of Worcester for centuries and will be restored to tell the stories of the people who lived there.

Other displays will reveal the role the castle had in the English Civil War and tell of visits by Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Elizabeth I and Prince Charles.

It is also home to the Worcestershire County Museum, where visitors can visit the Cider Mill and the Transport Gallery.

That houses a wide variety of vehicles. including an engine, hansom cab, bikes, carts and gypsy caravans

Hiding

Other people keen to know about the history of Kidderminster might like to visit its military wireless museum

Or if that is not to people's liking, there is also Harvington Hall, on the outskirts of the town That has the most surviving priest holes in

the country believed to have been created by Nicholas Ówen, who was canonised by the Pope in 1970.

Owen toured the country building hiding places for priests until 1606 when he was

arrested and executed, during James I's reign. Further afield, Bewdley will stage a number of celebrated cultural events over the next few

It will celebrate its annual culture festival from October 6 until October 15. Its regatta will be held over July 22 and 23.

The Bewdley Beer Festival will be held from Thursday, August 25 until Sunday, August 28 at

St George's Hall and the town's carnival is set

for June 10.

Of course, its name is more than enough of a description for what visitors can expect. In French, a 'beau lieu' translates into English as a 'beautiful place'

Stourport-on-Severn's country and western festival will be held in August, with Tom Collins, Kezia Gill, Twin Falls and Amy Morgan all performing on the first night.

The town's 13th annual vintage steam rally will be held at Coney Green Farm between July 8 and 9, while its annual regatta will be held on



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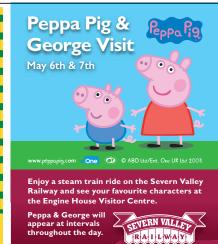
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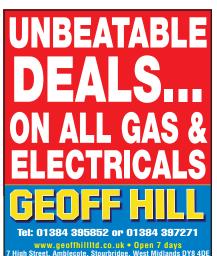
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Sex symbol? I just wanted to be Elvis

unk pioneer Suzi Quatro has long been celebrated for paving the way for women in rock, with a no-nonsense attitude and kickass lyrics to match

But surprisingly, looking back, Suzi had no idea there were even barriers to break down - and never considered herself as 'gendered'; wanting, as a child, to grow up to be Elvis Preslev.

can't say that I knew that was what was happening, but I will say that all this time, all I was ever doing I was

being myself," said Suzi, now aged 66.
"I've never been a gendered person. I saw Elvis when I was six-years-old on TV and thought 'that's going to be me'. It didn't even occur to me that he was a guy.

"I've talked to guys about this. I think it had to be

somebody like me to pave the way.

"I kicked that door open, but I'd never had a female role model.
"Not that I realised what I was doing back then. I'd been

in bands since I was 14.
"I wasn't even aware there was a 'door'."

Suzi, who achieved great success with hits such as Can The Can and 48 Crash, says that despite the difficult time in which her career began in the early seventies. she also never encountered any significant sexism or stereotyping – despite the issues which reportedly remain in the industry today.
"I always took myself seriously. What you give out, you

get back," adds Suzi.

"I was a serious bass player. Don't mess with me – that was the vibe I gave out.

"You know, you just can't teach this to people. I can be one of the guys, up to a point – but there's a line.

"If men step over that line, they only do it once.
"I had some issues in the very, very early days when playing clubs with the bands. They wanted us to wear mini skirts because we were girls. Not that I minded wearing skirts, I just didn't like being dictated to.
"I came from a family of four girls – and we're

all ballsy ladies.

"I'm the kind of person who believes everyone should shine their light. Gender simply shouldn't come into it.

"If you want to stay at home and be a

housewife, and that will make you happy then do it. Be who you are." Despite always carrying a very sexy image, Suzi rarely bared any skin – and, as such, takes a dim view of female stars

feeling the need to expose themselves to obtain fame and recognition. "I think people like Cher and Madonna were true to themselves at the time," says Suzi.

"But nowadays, a lot of women stars are basically naked on stage. They think they're running the show and that they're in

control, but they're not.
"I had a sexy image, but I was never up there exposing anything.
"I'm really hoping it will turn

around again soon. It's not what I fought for."

The star will perform at the Genting Arena on October 14, on the Legends Live tour – accompanied by Hot Chocolate, The Osmonds and David Essex.

"I'm touring with David Essex – we used to see each other at every Top Of The Pops. I'm really pleased to be headlining this tour with people I know. We all started off in the same

"I'm going to get a few poker games going, I tell you.

"I can't say I know The Osmonds as well though.

"Errol Brown, meanwhile, was good friend. I loved him truly. Before I'd made it, I was at his



"For 35 years, every time I saw him after that, he'd say 'don't you pay me back, that was a lucky £5'. He was such a lovely man

The show will pretty much be made up of all the hits - that's what the fans will be

Suzi, who previously had a show on ITV called Gas Street, has had plenty of experience in Birmingham, having filmed the programme there.

"I like it very much. There's a nice big

shopping centre there, which I'll certainly be visiting. I'm a mall-

aholic any way," laughs Suzi. "I'll be sure to have an Indian meal while I'm in Birmingham too. It has to be done. Indian food isn't big in the US like it is here but I love it?

In recent years, Suzi has worked on other projects forming a supergroup called QSP with Bilston-born Don Powell from Slade and Andy Scott from The Sweet.

She also released a poetry book in 2014 named Through My Eves and was named

Doctor Of Music last October by Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. "I don't even have a high school diploma, so I was absolutely thrilled," adds Suzi.

"I have got a bucket list. And I'm very proud of the poetry I've released.
"I've also formed a new band
called QSP. The album's come out in Australia and it's already at number 23 in their charts.

"I'd really like to make a film of my

"I'm currently part way through writing a novel. I used a rock and roll girl as the lead character, but it's

light. Gender simply shouldn't come into it.

should shine their

not me. In fact, as the story goes on, the characters seem "And I've still got my Quatrophonic show on Radio Two.

I'm a busy girl."

If given the opportunity to duet with anyone from history, Suzi says her top choices would include Elvis and Otis Redding. Modern day stars she'd like to work with, meanwhile, include Melissa Etheridge, Tom Petty or KT

"I'm also a huge fan of Bob Dylan," adds Suzi.

"I'd give both arms and legs to work with him.

"If I could meet anyone from throughout history, I would love to meet Jesus. He must have been the most charismatic of people.

"He'd be a good dinner partner too - you'd never have to buy wine.

More than 45 years after she launched her solo career, Suzi says the greatest thrill is still performing live.

"I really love my fans. It's a huge thrill every show when I see everyone walking away with a smile on their faces and I can think, 'I did that'. If that happens, I really am a happy girl," she adds.

You can't buy that feeling for all the money in the

"It's just who I am. I'm a born entertainer."

Kirsten Rawlins

 For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

2 SANG

2 SAMO



Temples are evolving a unique

It doesn't take too long with Temples' second album Volcano to realise that a noticeable evolution has taken place, whilst the psychedelic pop band from Northamptonshire have kept intact the things fans loved about their debut, Sun Structures.

Corkscrew-haired singer James Bagshaw says it's all part of learning their craft and the sonic possibilities. He explains: "If there's a sense of scale, it was really just a result of implementing a load of things that we didn't know about the first time around."

Referring back to Sun Structures, a record

that was recorded in his house in his native Kettering, James explains: "We didn't even

have a subwoofer to listen back to things that we did on Sun Structures.

Co-founding member and bassist Thomas Warmsley says: "We discovered a lot as we went along and the excitement at having done so radiates outwards.

It's a point emphatically born out by the track Mystery Of Pop where Sam Toms' brittle, piledriving rhythm clears the path for breathless baroque pop where synth and mellotron interweave to beguiling effect.

Oh My Saviour was written in Japan, where Temples enjoy an enormous following, at the foot of Mount Fuji, near the site of the eponymous rock festival where they played. 'That's when the album began in earnest for me," says James

Temples are back in Birmingham, at the O2 Institute on Sunday, for their first gig in the city since their debut on the NME Tour exactly three years ago.

The band's confident approach must in part be a result of the critical acclaim Sun Structures received. Songs such as Keep In The Dark, Shelter Song and Mesmerise have dispersed into the collective consciousness. Among the converts were Johnny Marr and Noel Gallagher. By the end of 2014, Sun Structures had charted in 18 countries and become the year's biggest-selling vinyl album in independent British record shops

This time around is that it's harder to spot the influences. This is the sound of a band squaring up to their potential.

From Russia with love dance and banter

Strictly Come Dancing star Pasha Kovalev brings his new show Let's Dance the Night Away to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday (April 9), a show charting Pasha's life from Russia to Strictly stardom.

"Let's Dance the Night Away is a very personal show, because you will see my story of becoming a dancer, travelling the world with my dance career and following my dream," says the 37-year-old professional dancer and Strictly champion, who is originally from Siberia.

It has been a long journey. I started dancing in Russia, moved to America, travelled the world and ended up here in the UK. Now I'm doing the best job ever! He describes Let's Dance The Night Away as 'a full-on show, packed with incredible dancing, fun and adventure'.

"There will be lots of dancing, lots of

seguins and beautiful costumes, beautiful lights and amazing music. There are lots of surprises too. We will have audience participation, so some lucky people can jump on stage and show me what they've got.

"I think the number that everyone will like is a paso doble. It's very dramatic. There's also singing... well I'm not going to be singing but we have professional singers who will do that! Everyone in the audience will find something that they like."

Audience interaction is a key part to the tour, Pasha will be holding a Q&A session before his show. "That's my favourite thing to do - interact with the audience. Usually in my show there's a little bit of banter, fun and jokes and a lot of dancing.

We are running lots of promotions and

competitions to win tickets to the Q&A

sessions on my Twitter @PashaKovalev." Pasha will be joined by Wolverhampton dance school, Linzi G School of Dance in both halves of the show.

"I will actually be doing one of the dances with the dance school. I started dancing when I was eight years old. I remember every single time we had a proper performance in front of a proper audience. You grow, you become better, you polish your skills. That's what I'm hoping the performance will do for

youngsters at my show."
Pasha will also be joined by his professional dance partner Anya Garnis.

"Anya and I have been dancing together for

almost two decades and this is actually the

story of both of us," he adds.

Tickets are available from www. grandtheatre.co.uk or on 01902 429212

See the funny side as

Emerald Isle dates Retro-styled Dutch singer Caro Em brings her Emerald Island Tour to Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday and Sunday nights.

The 35-year-old pop-jazz
songstress from Amsterdam enjoyed
Euro-wide success with her albums
Deleted Scenes from the Cutting
Room Floor and The Shocking Miss

Walsall's Jorja Smith has sold out her gig on Saturday at the O2 Academy; soul man Billy Ocean at the Symphony Hall on Monday; London Grammar play Birmingham Town Hall on Tuesday; US R&B singer producer Ne-Yo has his resc

Caro's comeback with

play goes very wrong A West End hit that won the Best New

Comedy accolade at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week

The Play That Goes Wrong joins 'The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society' as they put on a 1920s murder mystery. It becomes apparent the accident-prone thespians face a battle against the odds to reach their final curtain The farce will be staged at the Lichfield Street theatre from Monday to Saturday

April 8. Mod musical All Or Nothing, with songs of The Small Faces, is at the New Alexandra Theatre Tuesday to Saturday



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J)	Sat 3 Jun	The Wedding Singer - Live in Liverpool	£129

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The Voice UK (ITV, 8.30pm)

This year's contest draws to a close as the four finalists take to the stage in the first part of the two-part climax. Having progressed through seven weeks of blind auditions. two battle rounds, four live knockout stages and the evertense quarter- and semi-finals, the would-be stars face the ultimate test of their vocal abilities, with the winner earning themselves a prestigious contract with Polydor Records, Superstar coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale are on hand to share their thoughts as each performer steps down from the stage, with one of them being eliminated from the contest before the last programme of the series.

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Everyday. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.15 Film: Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller.

- 6.45 Regional Programme.6.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a medical version of the present a medical version of the celebrity quiz, with contestants Guy Henry, Rosie Marcel, Vicki Pepperdine, Ricky Grover, Raji Singh, Hilary Jones, Charles Dale and Amanda Henderson trying toome up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.
- the public.

 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given
- Subject.

 Casualty. Alicia wakes up in Sam's bed, while lain and Gem's relationship is tested when they spend the day together on the rig and lain is confronted with his biggest fear. Evie is confronted at home by a masked intruder who attacks her and ransacks the property, and when Evie manages to escape, she is hit outside by Susie's car.
- us uscape, sne is nit outside by Susiè's car.

 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's tamous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host a Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience, inviling friends, family and special guests to join her in the sitting room, Mrs Brown stages mischievous stunts, and gives a few celebrity visitors a piece of her mind.
- mind.

 10.15 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

 10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Everton.
- 12.00 Film: Jagged Edge. (1985) 1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.00
Film: Beautiful But Dangerous. (1954)
8.25 Film: We Dive at Dawn. (1954)
8.25 Film: We Dive at Dawn. (1954)
8.25 Film: We Dive at Dawn. (1964)
8.25 Film: We Dive (R) 12.00 Raymond
Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) 12.30
Hairy Blikers' Best of British. (R) 1.15
Him: Gypsy. (1962) Musical, starring
Rosalind Russell and Natalie Wood. 3.30
Natural World. (R) 4.30 University
Challenge. (R) 5.30 Only Connect. (R)
5.30 Flog Itl (R)
6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don
begins a brand new project when

- begins a brand new project when he starts a new soft fruit garden, and also plants new potatoes and
- jewei garden. including weather. (R)
 7.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti Join the staff working in some of the most extraordinary hotels around the world, beginning with Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, which employs 9,500 people and caters for a million guests a year. Their duties include acting as attendants at the world's largest infinity pool, working as a butler under a former special forces officer, and joining a catering team that provides Brazilian, Chinese, French and Japanese culsine for 60 restaurants. (R)
 8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish
- restaurants. (R)

 8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish
 Islands. Paul Murton visits the
 once-inhabited island of Heisgeir,
 sails around the gannet haven of
 Sula Sgeir and endurers rough sea
 to make landfall on North Rona. Last in the series.
- 8.30 Dad's Army. The men of Walmington-on-Sea's Home Guard use up all their ammunition obstine to precise allowed to the control of the contr
- Guard use up all their ammunition shooting at a passing aircraft, so Captain Mainwaring has to hold a court of inquiry. (R) 9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry invites David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sami Shah to join regular panellist Alan Davies as he meanders about some places that start with the letter M. 9.45 Film: Jimi: All Is By My Side.
- letter M.

 9.45 Film: Jimi: All Is By My Side.
 (2013) Premiere. Biopic of Jimi
 Hendrix following the events of
 1966, when he left New York to
 spend a year living in London.
- 11.35 Film: Populaire. (2012) Comedy, starring Deborah Francois and Romain Duris.
- 1.20 This Is BBC Two

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino.
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino.
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty.
(R) 6.55 Signed Stories: She as Sooty.
(R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05
Thunderbirds Are 6o. (R) 7.30
Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35
Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35
Scrambled! Scrambled! NinjaGo:
Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) 8.20
Scrambled! Too'd Henry. (R) 8.45
Scrambled! Teen Titans Go! 9.05
French Adventure Time. (R) 9.25
Alphabetical. (R) 10.20 James Martins'
French Adventure. (R) 11.20 Deset Walke

- Aphabetica. (N) 10.20 James Martins French Adventure. (R) 11.20 Eest Walks with a View with Julia Pranse Martins Vith a View with Julia Pranse Martins Vith a View Wather. 12.00 Rebound. (R) 12.55 Film. Beethoven's 2nd. (1935) Comedy sequel, starring Charles Grootin. 2.46 Film. Superman. (1973) Comic-Strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. 5.30 Regional Programme; Weather 5.45 ITV News. 6.00 You've Been Framed! Let Loose! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.
- 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Dermot O'Leary joins the duo on tonight's show for an edition of I'm A Celebrity Get Out of Me Earl Plus, Ant and Dec take a journey through time back to the 1980s.
- 8.30 The Voice UK. This year's contest 8.30 Ine Voice UK. In its year's contest concludes with a two-part finale as four acts face the ultimate test of their vocal abilities, with only three going through to the last stage.

 10.20 ITV News; Weather.

 10.35 Lethal Weapon. A man wrecks a iewelliery store and puts a security.

SLethal Weapon. A man wrecks a jewellery store and puts a security guard in hospital. Murtaugh delves deep into the psyche of the suspect, a former Navy Seal once treated for post traumatic stress disorder, and draws parallels between him and his partner Riggs, who also once served in the military. Although Riggs' association with the suspect threatens to interfere with the Illiniary, Amough, association with the suspect threatens to interfere with the case, it also forces him to open up to his colleague about the experiences that have shaped him. Clayne Crawford, Damon Wayans and Dante Brown star. (R)

11.35 The Chase. (R) 12.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Triathlon: Challenge Wanaka. 6.30
The King of Queens. (R) 6.55 The King of Queens. (R) 7.20 The King of Queens. (R) 9.05 Frasier. (R) 9.05 Frasier. (R) 9.05 Frasier. (R) 9.40
The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.5 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 11.00 The Simpsons. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Dime with Me. (R) 2.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.30 Come Dine w

- Windlife United States and Bill Paxton.

 Jane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton.

 10.45 Film: Colombiana. (2011) An orphan grows up to be an assassin while secretly plotting revenge on the gangsters who murdered her parents. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana and Cliff Curtis.
- parents. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana and Cliff Curtis.

 12.45 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Part two of two. Mil Street Bistro proprietor Joe Nagy slips back into his old ways and picks pethy fights with Gordon Ramsay as the chef tries to give him advice. (R) 1.35 Our Guy in China. Guy Martin concludes his adventure by taking on his toughest physical challenge yet as he attempts the fastest crossing of the Talkamakan Desert on a bicycle. (R) 2.30 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. It is the day of Amy and Ryan's wedding, but Ryan has also got their potential move to America playing on his mind, while Scott is having a fashion crisis. 4.35 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Featuring retired couple Lenny and Mary in Reigate. Surrey, who want to sell up and return to their Irish roots, but their home's dated decor is preventing them securing a sale. (R) 5.30 Fifteen to One. General knowledge quiz. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninia Turtles, 10.40 Access, 10.50 Police

SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 1

6.00 Milkshakel 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turles. 10.40 Access. 10.50 Police Interceptors Unleashed. 11.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) 12.20 On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) 2.20 Is Kids & Claiming Benefits. (R) 3.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) 4.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) 4.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) 5.15 Can't Pay? Well Take It Away. (The Officers chase a debt of almost £2.000 in unpaid parking fines, and later encounter the extraordinary case of a debt of the extraordinary case of a debt of sex for the sex firther of the Sex firth

- access to firearms. Elsewhere, two
 officers head to a car garage in
 Manchester where the owner owes
 \$2,000 after losing a court case
 over a faulty vehicle. (R)

 7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team
 investigates when two
 pharmaceutical executives are
 murdered, uncovering a criminal
 who changes his identity for each
 offence he commits.

 8.00 NCIS. A depensea diver is
- 8.00 NCIS. A deep-sea diver is murdered on the job, and the team must identify which of his co-workers is the killer, before they are released from a four-day stint in a decompression chamber.

in a decompression chamber.

5.55 S News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.
George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave
introduce highlights from the
weekend's games in the
Championship, including Barnsley
v Sherflied Wednesday at Oakwell
v Sherflied Station from
Reading v Leeds United at the
Madejski Stadium and
Huddersfield Town v Burton Albion
at the John Smith's Stadium.

at the John Smith's Stadium.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George
R.Iley and Lynsey Hipprave
introduce all the goals from the
latest games in Leagues One and
Two, including Bolton Wanderers v
Chesterfield.

10.30 FIA Formula E Live: Mexico. The
Mexico City ePrix. Coverage of the
fourth round of the campaign from
the Authodromo Hermanos

Rodriguez in Mexico.

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: Blood Creek. (2009) 4.45 House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four 7.00 The Silk Road 8.00 Woolly Mammoth: Secrets from the Ice 9.00 Follow the Money 11.00 Top of the Pops: 1983 12.15 Classic Albums: The Beach Boys – Pet Sounds 1.15 The Joy of the Guitar Riff 2.15 The Kinks at the BBC 3.15 Sounds of the Eighties 3.40 Close

ITV2

11.35 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway 1.10 Britain's Got Talent Top
10 Child Stars 2.15 Film: Cats & Dogs:
The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) 3.15
FYI Daily 3.20 Film: Cats & Dogs: The
Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) 4.00 Mr
Bean 5.05 Film: Evan Almighty (2007)
6.05 FYI Daily 6.10 Film: Evan Almighty
(2007) 7.00 Scorpion 8.00 Film: The
Mask (1994) 9.00 FYI Daily 9.05 Film:
The Mask (1994) 4) 10.05 Family Guy
10.30 Celebrity Juice 11.15 Family Guy
10.30 Celebrity Juice 11.15 Family Guy 12.10 American Dad! 1.10 Film: Hall Pass (2011) 3.00 Teleshopping

11.25 Film: The Baby and the Battleship (1956) 12.25 FYI Daily 12.30 Film: The Baby and the Battleship (1956) 1.30 Heidi 3.35 Rosemary & Thyme 4.40 Inspector Morse 7.00 Endeavour 9.00 Lewis 11.00 Les Dawson Forever 12.00 Colditz 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30

11.00 The Big Fish Off 12.00 Fishing Impossible 1.00 Pawn Stars 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster and Kempton Park. Coverage of today's race meetings. 4.00 Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) 3.00 FY Daily 5.05 Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) 5.20 Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) 6.25 It's Not Rocket Solence 7.25 Fierce 8.30 Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) 9.30 FYI Daily 9.35 Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) 9.30 FYI Daily 9.35 Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) 9.30 FIIm: The Last Boy Scout (1991) 11.40 FYI Daily 11.45 Film: The Last Boy Scout (1991) 12.55 Film Gear 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping E4

E4
4.00 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 Film:
Iron Man 2 (2010) 9.00 Film: The
Transporter (2002) 10.50 Gogglebox
12.55 Rude Tube 2.00 Naked Attraction
2.55 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.40
Melissa & Joey 4.25 Revenge

Film4
1.00 Catch That Kid (2004) 2.45 Carry
On Cleo (1964) 4.35 Rango (2011) 6.45
Runaway Bride (1999) 9.00 The Wolf of
Wall Street (2013) 12.30 A Field in
England (2013) 2.15 Ben Wheatley
Interview Special 2.25 Straightheads Interview Special 2.25 Straightheads (2007) 4.00 Close

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CHOICE



Turkey with Simon Reeve (BBC2, 9pm)

In the second half of the journey, Simon travels along the Black Sea Coast to the capital of Ankara and the Northern Highlands, witnessing first hand the aftermath of fighting in Kurdish areas and meeting a conservationist attempting to preserve the region's brown bears. He then returns to Istanbul, where he takes part in a popular TV series set in the palace of the Ottoman Sultans.

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day.
(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00
The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional
Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R)
1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Homes
Under the Hammer. (R) 2.10 Countryfile
Spring Diaries. (R) 2.55 Escape to the
Country, (R) 3.20 Songs of Praise. 4.00
Rowing: The Boat Races. Live coverage
of the men's and women's University
Boat Races.
6.25 BBC News

- 6.25 BBC News.
- 6.40 Regional Programme.
 6.50 Countryfile. Reports on the UK's forests. Matt Baker helps out with an inventory of the New Forest's trees, and Ellie Harrison visits trees, and Ellie Harrison visits Inverness to take a look at industrial timber production and the impact of forestry on red squirreis. Sean Fletcher reports on the Scotlish tradition of hutting John Craven examines the revival of working with horses in forests, and Charlotte Smith discovers whether enough trees are being planted in Britain.
- Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Caversham Park, near Caversham Park, near Reading, home to the BBC's international news monitoring service. Items brought in to be valued include some notes written by a 17th-century Shakespeare fan, a ring connected to a moving story of the California Gold Rush, and watercolour illustrations. depicting life in 18th-century
- uelecting the in Total-cellitury India.

 9.00 Line of Duty. A new DCI is placed in charge of Operation Trapdoor as Roz fails to report for duty. A dismembered body is discovered, and the AC-12 team delves deeper into the case as evidence mounts up that an innocent man has been convicted of crimes he did not commit. Kate makes progress in her undercover role as all the signs point to crucial evidence being covered up by Roz, but the investigation suffers a serback when the team discovers that the main informant, forensics
- 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2. 11.35 I'm Different: Let Me Drive
- 12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.10 BBC News.

- 6.15 An Island Parish. (R) 6.45 The Beechgrove Garden. 7.15 Around the 8.19 An Island Parish. (1) 9.43 in 8 Beechgrove Garden. 7.15 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) 8.15 Gardenser World. (R) 8.45 Countryfile. (R) 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.15 Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) 1.45 Simply Nigella. (R) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 World Figure Skating Championships. 3.00 When Danny Won the Masters. 3.00 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) 4.00 The House That £100K Built. (R) 5.00 Flog lt! (R) 6.00 Inside the Factory: Cereal. Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey return with the programme shedding light on how some of Britain's biggest factories make the nation's
 - light on how some of Britain's biggest factories make the nation's favourite products, beginning with popular breakfast cereals. Gregg starts by receiving a boat-load of corn fresh from Argentina, and witnesses as it is cooked, milled and flavoured to become a topselling cereal brand. Cherry learns about the immunity-boosting powers of vitamin D, which is added to many of the UK's most popular cereals, and historian Ruth Gordon samples a Victorian breakfast of lobster and pig's head, as part of a daily meal that
- breakfast of lobster and pig's head, as part of a daily meal that included 4,500 calories. (R) Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final heat, with reigning champion Apollo taking on rival contenders Ms Nightshade, Coyote, Rusty, Crackers' RSmash, Meggamouse, Trolley Rage and Carbide through two group battles and a minieague. The battles are all overseen by judges Professor Noel Sharkey, Professor Sethu Vijayakumar and Dr Lucy Rogers. Dr Lucy Rogers.
- 8.00 Top Gear. Motoring magazine, featuring test drives of the latest
- models.

 9.00 Turkey with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon travels along the Black Sea Coast to the capital of Ankara, and witnesses first hand the aftermath of fighting in Kurdish areas before returning to
- 10.00 Live at the Apollo. Host Joe Lycett introduces Ivo Graham and Phil Wang to the stage before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)
- Apollo. (R)

 10.45 Film: Dead Poets Society. (1989)
 Drama, with Robin Williams.

 12.50 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)
 1.50 Holby City. (R) 2.45 This Is BBC
 Two.

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Inunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.30
 Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Mr Bean: The Animated
 Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled: Ultimate
 Spider-Man: Web Warriors. 8.20
 Scrambled: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.45
 Scrambled: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.45
 Scrambled: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25
 ITV News. 9.30 Countrywise: Guide to
 Britain. (R) 10.00 Secret Dealers. (R)
 11.00 Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R)
 11.30 ITV News; Weather. 11.45 Film.
 From Russia with Love. (1963) 2.00 The
 Voice UK. (R) 3.50 Little gis Johts. (R)
 4.55 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. (R)
 5.30 Regional Programme:
 Weather.5.40 ITV News; Weather.
 6.00 Five Gold Rings. Game show,
 hosted by Phillip Schofield, in
 which two friends take on a father
 and son to answer visual
 questions by placing rings on an
- estions by placing rings on an
- 7.00 The Voice UK. Conclusion of the 7.00 The Voice UK. Conclusion of the two-part final, as we learn which of the three remaining acts will be this year's winner and gain a prestigious contract with Polydor Records. Last in the series.
 8.00 Vera. The detective is called to the University of Morthumberland when Jamie Marshall, a promising when convenient series of the contractive of the contractive
- when Jamie Marshall, a promising young journalism student, falls to his death from the top of a disused faculty building. With no eyewitnesses and no immediate leads, Vera turns to friends and family to glean all she can about Jamie, and to discover who might have wanted him dead. With Brenda Blethyn, Kenny Doughty and Jon Morrison.

- and Jon Morrison.

 10.00 ITV News; Weather.

 10.15 The Nightly Show Best Bits.

 Highlights of the fifth week of the entertainment show, with Gordon Ramsay presenting a mix of topical monologues, studio games, celebrity guests, stand-up and video clips.
- and video clips.

 10.45 Film: Hard Target. (1993) An outof-work merchant sailor
 investigates sadistic hunters who
 stalk human prey in New Orleans.
 John Woo's action thriller, starring
 lean Clearly New Pamma. Jean-Claude Van Damme
- 12.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Cube. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) 6.45 The King of Queens. (R) 7.10 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Trasier. (R) 9.00 Travels. (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Ban Stiller.

6.35 Channel 4 News

- starring Ben Stiller.

 6.35 Channel 4 News.

 7.00 Titanic: The New Evidence.
 Investigative journalist and Titanic
 expert Senan Molony examines
 recently recovered photographs of
 the doomed ship, which provide
 fresh insight into the reasons for
 its sinking. The images reveal a
 strange mark on the hull, which
 may prove previously overlooked
 stories of a fire raging in the boiler
 room. This blaze may explain why
 the captain chose to gnore
 warnings of icebergs ahead and
 why the vessel sank so quickly
 after the fatal collision. (R)

 8.00 Spring on the Royals. Part one of
 a two-part documentary
 examining an espinage operation
 on Edward Vill and Walis
 Simpson. Shown to mark the 80th
 anniversary of the king's
 abdication, the programmes
 examines recently declassified
 documents revealing the extent of
- documents revealing the extent of the surveillance and who ordered it, as well as featuring dramatic reconstructions and eyewitness accounts.
- Homeland. Dar plays his hand and Quinn revisits his past. Thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists and problems in their personal lives. Claire Danes
- 10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
- the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

 11.00 8 Ut of 10 Cats Does Countdown.
 Jimmy Carr hosts the hybrid
 comed y panie quiz show, as guest
 team captain David Walliams joins
 forces with Jonathan Ross, while
 Jon Richardson teams up with Joe
 Lycett. (R)

 12.00 Film: Seven Psychonaths (2012)
- 12.00 Film: Seven Psychopaths. (2012) 2.00 The Last Leg. (R) 2.55 Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year. (R) 3.50 Building the Dream.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Milkshakel Bop Box. (R) 6.15 Paw Patrol. (R) 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.50 Rupert Bear. (R) 7.00 Olly the Little White Van 7.05 Wande and the Allen. (R) 7.20 Little Princess. (R) 7.30 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.15 Noddy: Toyland betective. (R) 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.15 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.25 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.15 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Feppa Pig. R) 9.35 Feppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Feppa Pig. R) 9.35 Feppa Pi

- adventure, starring reath Ledger.
 6.15 5 News Weekend.
 6.20 Inside Kensington Palace. The history of famous buildings, beginning by going behind the scenes of the royal residence, home to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry. (R)
- Harry. (N)
 Inside Buckingham Palace. Part
 two of two. Despite being closed
 and secretive, the Palace is a
 symbol of everything British. This
 addition reflects on previous symbol of everytning prusis. The edition reflects on previous monarchs' accomplishments during their reign. (R)
 Disobedient Dogs Make You
 Laugh Out Loud. Compliation of internet videos featuring dogs
- oning numorous trinings.

 9.00 The Michael Michityre Story.
 Documentary about the
 comedian's rise to fame,
 examining his breakthrough
 performance at the 2006 Royal
 Variety show and role in the
 reinvention of stand-up comedy
 on TV.
- 10.3020 Moments That Shocked Comedy. Countdown of memorable comedy moments, including the launch of The Young Ones and Spitting Image, and the controversy surrounding Monty Python's Life of Brian. (R)
- of Brian. (R)

 12.00 Football League Tonight: The Checkatrade Trophy. 12.45 Police Interceptors: Takedown. (R) 1.10

 SuperCasino. 3.19 Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R) 4.00 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) 4.50 House Doctor. (R) 5.15

 Wildliffs SOS. (R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th
Birthday 8.00 Giselle: Belle of the Ballet
9.00 Do We Really Need the Moon?
10.00 Gravity and Me: The Force that io.uu craviry and Me: The Force that Shapes our Lives 11.30 Sex: A Horizon Guide 12.30 The Story of Maths 1.30 The Century That Wrote Itself 2.30 How to Get Ahead: At Versailles 3.30 Close ITV2

TIV2

1.05 2Awesome: Guidance 1.40
2Awesome: Fame High 1.55 2Awesome: LA Story 2.10 2Awesome: Side Effects
2.40 The Hot Desk: Erma Wills 2.50
You've Been Framed! Gold 3.20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 4.55
Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) 5.55 FV Daily 6.00
Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) 5.55 FIlm: Llar Liar (1997) 9.00 Ibiza Weekender 10.00
Family Guy 11.30 American Dadi 12.25
The Cleveland Show 1.20 The Vampire Diaries 2.15 Teleshopping

1TV3 11.30 Heidi 1.45 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 6.00 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Agul O'Grady-For the Love of Dogs 9.00 Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was 10.00 Les Dawson Forever 11.05 Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) 12.05 FY Daily 12.10 Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) 1.10 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide 2.50 May the Best House Win 4.35 On the Buses 5.30 ITV3 Nightscreen 1TV4

7.15 The Big Fish Off 8.15 Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) 9.15 FYI Daily 9.20 Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike 9.20 Film: Jacke Chars First STIRE (1996) 10.00 Film: First Blood (1982) 11.00 FYI Daily 11.05 Film: First Blood (1982) 11.55 Film: Cliffhanger (1993) 12.55 FYI Daily 1.00 Film: Cliffhanger (1993) 2.10 Hogan's Heroes 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
2.00 The Goldbergs 3.30 Black-ish 4.00
Baby Daddy 4.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Maver's
Agents of SHLELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers
11.00 Celebrity First Dates 12.05 Naked
Attraction 1.10 Gogglebox 2.15 Bizarre
ER 3.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD

Film4
1.00 Love Happens (2009) 3.10 The
Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) 4.55
The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007)
6.55 Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) 9.00
Chef (2014) 11.15 Blood Ties (2013)
1.45 Weekend (2011) 3.50 Close



FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Conan the Barbarian, Channel 5, 11,05pm An evil warlord kills a barbarian chieftain, whose son grows up to be a mighty warrior and seeks revenge for his father's death. He finds there is more at stake, as the tyrant is close to acquiring all the pieces of a magic mask, which will make him all-powerful. Fantasy adventure, with Jason Momoa. (2011)

Strangers in Amish Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm A military nurse returns from a tour of duty in Afghanistan to her family's farm in rural Ohio, and falls for an Amish neighbour after an intruder wreaks havoc. Romantic drama, starring Jes Macallan. (2017)

Abducted: The Carlina White Story, Channel 5.

A couple take their three-week-old baby to a hospital for treatment, but she is snatched by a woman desperate for a child. She raises the infant as her own for years, but as the girl grows up, she begins to suspect the truth and resolves to investigate her kidnapping and find her parents. Fact-based drama starring Keke Palmer and Aunjanue Ellis. (2012)



Bond of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searches for answers after her husband is mysteriously murdered while trying to subdue a wild teenage house party on New Year's Eve. However, as she tries to find out the truth, she faces secrecy at every turn from the party-goers and their parents. Drama, starring Kim Raver, Greg Grunberg and Charlie McDermott. (2010)

The Stepford Wives, BBC1, 11.50pm

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A ruthless TV boss suffers a nervous breakdown and is persuaded to relocate to an idyllic town. However, she begins to suspect something is very wrong with the local women and sets out to discover the dark secret behind the seemingly perfect community. Frank Oz's comedy remake of the 1975 satire, with Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick, Bette Midler, Glenn Close and Christopher Walken. (2004)

The new teams hope they can rise to the challenge

ven in the year of Brexit,
Donald Trump becoming
US President and the
deaths of a distressing tumber of

It was still making headlines this It was still making headlines this year too, as it was revealed that Sandi Toksvig and Noel Fielding will be taking over as presenters after Mel and Sue declined to make the jump to Channel 4, while former Great British Menu expert Prue Leith will be filling the judging role vacated by Mary Berry. But amid all the snew latin and the property of the

But amid all the speculation about how the new line-up will fare and when the next series is likely to hit our screens, you may have missed out on the news that another member of the Bake Off family has been undergoing a makeover of its own.

If you need your memory jogged, the first series of Bake Off: Crème de la Crème aired on BBC Two last year, and gave teams of

For most of us, the millennium probably doesn't feel

as if it was that long ago, but the 25 children born in 2000 who are taking part in this series are now 16, which means they are free to live by themselves,

get married, pay taxes and even have offspring of

their own. Robert Winston and Tanya Byron catch

Among the highlights is Charlie's first taste of love, Eve's life-changing revelation, and Jamie discussing

the shocking events that caused him to re-evaluate his priorities. There's also an insight into research

stage of life. Yes, there really is a reason for moody

John O Brennan spent almost four years as director

of the CIA, and as chief counterterrorism adviser to Barack Obama. In light of shocking events in

London on March 22, the threat of terrorism is more

relevant than ever, so this year's Richard Dimbleby

Lecture should prove all too topical. Here Brennar

involving human biology and neuroscience that helps to explain the most baffling aspects of this

The Richard Dimbleby Lecture 2017

up with the group in this two-part documentary.

Child of Our Time

BBC1, 9pm

TUESDAY

BBC1, 10.45pm

professional pastry chefs the chance to show what they could do. Given that the amateurs on The Great British Balke Off have rustled us such spectacular creations as a bread lion, a cake Moulin Rouge and a gingerbread Colosseum, it was hoped that the experts would come up with some truly jaw-dropping showstoppers – and they definitely delivered.

However, the series still got something of a mixed response from viewers and the critics. While we perhaps should have expected Crème de la Crème to be more openly competitive than the jolly, pastel-coloured Bake Off tent – after pastel-coloured Bake Untert—after all, these contestants were putting their professional reputations on the line – the fact that three different teams competed in each episode meant there wasn't much of a chance to get to know the individual bakers.

Add in the complicated scoring system – each of the three judges marked each round out of 30 – and it began to seem as if the series was lacking some of the heart and

So, there have been a few tweaks So, linere laws been a liew weaks to the recipe this time around, including a new presenter as Angus Deayton takes over from Michelinstarred chef Tom Kerridge, presumably to add a layman's perspective to what had been a very technical show.

The judging panel has been reduced from three to two, with Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin returning to their roles, and there's also been a change to the format. This time around, two groups of five teams will compete across three heats to give us a chance to get know them and pick someone to root for.

But the standard of baking hasn't been relaxed, as in the opening edition, the teams are asked to make 36 identical Moka au Café slices and 36 identical Napoleons, in just three hours before reinventing the Peach Melba as a fabulous showstopper.

And the team with the fewes points will be going home.

PICK OF THE WEEK



Bake Off: Creme de la Creme, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

Channel 4, 7,30pm

discusses the future security and stability of the world, drawing on his experience of intelligence collection and analysis and covert operations to determine how societies will protect themselves in the face of turbulent global events

WEDNESDAY Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest BBC2, 8pm

New series. Chris Packham hosts the show where dog owners and their pets compete in physical and mental challenges designed to test their ability to communicate, with trainers and canine scientists on hand to help them develop the relationship between human and animal. In the first episode half the contestants must lead their dogs through a series of gates using verbal and physical signals, while the others must collect tennis balls in fast-flowing water. The final challenge sees the owners and dogs compete in a tethered biking challenge, to decide who has triumphed in the first stage of the contest.

THURSDAY Alone with the In-Laws BBC2, 8pm

different from relationships of the past? And can modern couples learn something from their parents? Those are the questions tackled in this programme which places a soon-to-be-wed with their in-laws to see what they car learn from the people who raised them and

their partner. We meet Chris and Stacey from Bristol who are getting married in the summer. While planning for their big day is one thing, the couple also obviously want to make a success making a success of the years that follow. To help out, Reverend Kate Bottley from Gogglebox arranges for them to spend a few days with

to-be. What will the experiment tell each of them about their nartner's expectation of married life? And will Chris and Stacey still feel the same about trying the

knot?

Is modern marriage really that much

The Graham Norton Show, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

The statistics of the Syrian refugee crisis are hard to comprehend. More than three million people have now fled the country, with Lebanon alone taking in one and a half million. And that number is increasing daily. In this powerful documentary. Shaunagh Connaire reports from the country where, despite offers of assistance from the international community, some of those most in need – refugee children with serious medical conditions – are dying while they wait for help. Several developed nations have promised to help the most vulnerable voungsters and resettle them. However, it seems there are limits on medical grounds as to who is being accepted, resulting in some of the sickest children and their families being behind.

The Graham Norton Show BBC1, 10.35pm

The Irishman returns with a brand new run of 13 shows. Here, Graham catches up with Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman, stars of new heist comedy Going in Style. Plus, comedian Jack Whitehall and Game of Thrones actress Gemma Whelan talk about their roles in BBC One's Evelyn Waugh adaptation, Decline and Fall.

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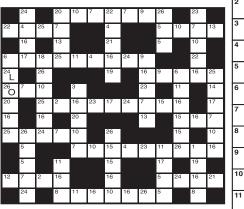
win for 18 years?

Desolato in 1985?

No.423

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

0	Z	Α	v	ĸ	в	Υ	۴	R	S	U	w	Ľ
4	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	G	D	Р	Т	N	M	С	Е	Н	J	Х	26
	•	•				•		•		•		

Which South African PM was assassinated

In which sport was Britain's Carl Furrer

In which field did Wole Soyinka win the

world champion in 1982? What is the capital of Nevada?

1986 Nobel Prize?

What type of animal is a brocket? Who was the Beatles' producer?

Quiz

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- 4. Forward some
- money (7)
- 8. Rose is involved in basketwork (6)
- 9. A misguided vicar gets direction in greed (7)
- 10. More suitable as a workman? (6)
- 11. It may be rude to make a digression
- 12. No result of snap decision (8)
- 18. It may be taken to promote good feeling (8)
- track (6) 21. Kind of pastel
- sheets (6) 22 Somewhat
- overstrained in verbal construction (7)
- 23. One eats it, as matter of course (6)
- 24. Supports inferior goods (7)

Of which county was Parts of Lindsey a

Which inventor's middle name was Alva?

What was Colin McRae the first Briton to

10. Which political figure wrote the play Largo

- 1. Go in for modified coverage (7)
- 2. Grape-producer includes a label to mark its year (7)
- 3. Ranted perhaps when heated (6)
- 5. Business interest (8)
- 6. Put in charge at the lemonade factory? (6)
- 7. Naturally, it raises awkward points (6)
- 13. Put into liquidation (8)
- 14. Get into bad shape (7) 15. A complaint soon
- spotted? (7) 16. A bang on the
- head? (6) 17. Fuss about the
- French in Spain (6) 19. Is left and right in
- the water (6)

Last week's solutions:

10 Terpsichore

Niner: RUMINATES

Quick Clues:

- 4. Quarrel (7)
- 8. Symbol (6)
- 9. Attack (7)
- 10. Enemy (6)
- 11. Tone of voice (6)
- 12. Dedication (8)
- 18. Voluntary (4-4)
- 20. Discuss (6) 21. Hidden (6)
- 22. Spear (7)
- 23. Individual (6) 24. 100 years (7)

Quiz: 1 Croydon; 2 Charlotte Corday; 3 Dodo;

4 Oboe: 5 Bratislava: 6 Anno Domini: 7 Putney:

8 A Central American bird; 9 Gulf of Alaska;

- 1. Treachery (7) 2. Notice (7)
- 3. Occupant (6)
- 5. Example (8) 6. Swagger (6)
- 7. Gift (6)
- 13. Lower (8)
- 14. Malady (7)
- **15.** Palpable (7) 16. 10 years (6)
- 17. Obvious (6)

19. Exultant (6) Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

Sudoku

9 3 6 8

9

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7 4 6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3

boxes contains

all the digits from 1 to 9.

3											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			

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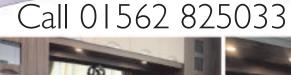
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RESTAURANTS like The Bilash can give a reviewer a bad name. The nature of the beast is to try to find fault; perhaps the lamb isn't quite tender enough or the dish is too

spicy or too salty.

Maybe the decor is a bit tired or, alternatively, too overblown. Alternatively, the service may not be good enough, or it might be way too clingy and attentive.

And then you get the rare occasions where you find

yourself enjoying a meal that is as near perfect as it is possible to get. It can't be easy for Sitab Khan, who has been the chief proprietor at The Bilash, in Cheapside, Wolverhampton, for more than three decades. With his son, Mohammed, he has built a reputation for his restaurant as one of the best in the region.

REPUTATION

It's not just a good Indian restaurant, it's a good restaurant full stop. And it charges the sort of prices you expect to pay in a top restaurant. That, in turn, means the pressure never lets up; The Bilash faces a constant battle to justify its reputation and maintain the

high standards every customer will expect.
You can see the pressure in the kitchen when
evening service hits a peak. The large window between the dining area and the kitchen gives a spectator's view of a team working at full speed. There aren't many smiles but there is a lot of focus on display. The contrast with the relaxed, newly-decorated dining area couldn't be more stark. Cream leather and delicate filigree Indian lampshades all add to a sense of light and space.
The £100,000 revamp has also included a series of

booths that were clearly popular on the night we visited. The table was barely cleared of poppadums when our starters started arriving. Tiger prawn in red peppel sauce, sitting on a puri – a small fried bread. Pretty as



Sleek and chic - inside is classy and contemporary

a picture and just as nice to eat. Jalpari kebabs are saffron flavoured fish rolls, stuffed with prawns. The spicing is light, with a crisp shell around the rice and prawn stuffing. My choice was tandoori pomfret – a marinated, herbed and spiced fillet of traditional Indian fish served up with a neat little carrot salad and a smear of tamarind sauce. It was delicate, flavourful and

After a few minutes of arguing over whose starte tasted best, the main courses started arriving Mine was a Mangshor Jhool, a Bengali lamb curry The meat was tender and the gravy, while full of flavour, didn't detract from its taste.

My other half had gone for something milder: Murgh Begum Bahar, a chicken dish with a rich pale sauce of yoghurt, curd and almonds. Our daughter had chosen Maacher Jhool, a Bengali fish curry. She couldn't shut up about it. I took a taste and it was hard to argue with her enthusiasm. Side dishes were made up of a couple of naan breads – one peshwari and one garlic – and a basmati rice made with onions, ginger, salt and steamed mushroom. I'd happily eat that on its own as a meal.

There were three desserts on offer, so we had one each: a neat little chocolate sponge with a molten middle, a white chocolate affair like an Eton Mess and a traditional gulab jamun, sweet spongy balls made with evaporated milk and soaked in rose scented syrup. With

a good strong cup of coffee to finish.

With a bottle of wine, two people aren't going to leave with a bill much under £80 but there's a good reason why, after more than three decades, The Bilash maintains its reputation.

SIMON PENFOLD

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SKODA SUPERB L&K ESTATE

Handsome estate is Superb Skoda

By Jon Reay

Jon Reay's been learning to live with Skoda's ever-popular Superb Estate What's it like on a daily basis? Let him

You've got to feel for the Skoda Superb really, haven't you? No matter how hard its designers, engineers and marketing people try, it's always forced to play second (or third) fiddle to the VW Group's other biggish saloon and estate cars – namely the Volkswagen Passat and Audi A4.

Somehow though, I don't think that's fair. This is now the third generation of Superb that Skoda has graced us with (ignoring the gigantic 1930s creation from which it gets its name), and I reckon it's probably its best one

In styling alone the Superb has matured dramatically.

Like a gawky child star turned Hollywood A-lister, it's suddenly become very handsome indeed - now more than smart enough to mix with its premium rivals.

The interior has come on in leaps and bounds too. Skodas haven't felt badly put together since VW took over in the early '90s, but at times certain elements - such as the quality of materials - have felt deliberately strangled in order for its posher brothers and sisters to keep their premium edge. Not so anv more.

There's nothing in our car that'd feel out of place in a VW, and although it's a teensy bit bland to look at, a Passat's insides are hardly bursting with interesting detail either.

There's a downside though. To make it look



Pretty much all the car you could want

like a VW and feel like a VW, Skoda has been forced to price it like a VW. Our car is a shade over £33,000 with a couple of options thrown in - not far off what a similarly specified Passat would end up costing.

The Superb has another trump card though - interior space. It's absolutely gigantic inside, with rear leg room in particular beating just about everything this side of a Mercedes S-Class. Even the Audi A6 – which is larger on the outside and starts at some £15,000 more would struggle to match it.

The Skoda's budget roots have some accidental benefits too. It shares its modular platform with the mk7 Volkswagen Golf which, aside from saving Skoda some hefty development costs, also means that it feels surprisingly light – despite having such an enormous exterior

Any gripes? Well, Skoda has gone a little over the top when it comes to softening the



In styling alone the Superb has matured dramatically. The third generation of Skoda Superb is probably its best one yet

Superb's ride. There's compliant, and then there's just plain floaty - the Superb finds itself somewhere nearer the latter.

The start-stop system likes to have an argument with the automatic gearbox too often cutting out the very second you need to accelerate away from a junction, leaving the

DSG's software to go into a tizzy while you jab the accelerator pedal in desperation.

The Canton-branded sound system isn't as accomplished as its four-door speakers would suggest either, though it comes as standard on our Laurent & Klement-trimmed car, so I won't protest too much.

Beyond that, though, it's hard to fault the Superb - and if I was spending £30,000 on a big estate, I can't think of anything else I'd rather buy.

Highlight of the Month: Finding out that the Superb Estate is pretty much all the car you could want

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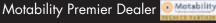


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A blend of economy and performance

It's only a few months since Volvo unveiled its biggest, most luxurious range of cars, the S (for saloon) and V (for versatility or

Now it has completed the new range with two models which are seemingly at opposite ends of the spectrum but actually had much in common – the V90 cross country and the sportier R-Design performance flagship. While both have all-wheel drive and are

engineered for their intended market, both offer limousine-like levels of space and comfort, and a rewarding blend of economy and performance.
The R-Design, for example, comes with

lowered suspension, the most powerful engine in the range and sports seats, while the Cross Country gets a 65mm rise in its ground clearance, special suspension and tyres, skid plates and protective mouldings for those who venture off the ashphalt.

It's 20 years since Volvo launched its first estate car with all-wheel drive as a practical alternative to the more traditional sports utility vehicle. While it now makes SUVs of its own the company knows there is still a market for the large but lower and sleeker estate with the same wide band of competence. It expects the Cross Country to account for around a quarter of V90 sales.

The Cross Country drives on the road like a quality saloon: excellent ride comfort, quiet and surprisingly agile for such a big vehicle: the extra ride height and slightly stiffer suspension just don't make themselves felt. It drives like a smaller car, its size and weight not detracting from its nimble nature.

Off road it tackles rough, rutted tracks with



The Volvo deals with 200 voice commands

aplomb, and must rank among the best in soaking up the bumps and cossetting passengers. As well as four-wheel drive (and a switchable driving model to optimise traction) off-road mode also has automatic hill descent control – keeping your speed to a controllable walking pace down steep, slippery slopes – and hill hold, which prevents you slipping backwards on such terrain.

This combination is what makes the Cross Country a true all-rounder.

The £39,800 test car was powered by Volvo's D4 engine, a two-litre turbo diesel mated to an automatic transmission which can waft the car to 62mph in 8.8 seconds yet is still capable of averaging better than 54mpg (CO2 emissions 138g/km). The alternative, D5 engine is currently the most powerful, turning out 235bhp – taking a second off the sprint time for only fractional penalties in economy and CO2. Prices start at £43,400.

Later this year, the Cross Country will also be available with the same powertrain as Volvo's XC90 SUV: a supercharged and turbocharged engine driving the front wheels powering the rear, giving a combined output of 407bhp.

The Cross Country has a small but exclusive list of competitors and is a serious challenge to many of them on price and running costs.

But it is also a different offering, majoring on sublime ride comfort and space. The big leather seats will accommodate five adults, with even the tallest finding knee and headroom in the rear. With its light feel and agility, it makes this biggest Volvo a relaxing place to be. Plus you have the knowledge that you're in a safe place – the V90 is one of the three Volvos which topped the scoring in EuroNCAP crash tests, making them officially the safest cars on the road.

The wide, low opening boot (there's an electric tailgate) opens up to a generous 560 litres of boot space, which expands to 1,560 litres with the rear seats folded down.

The driver's position is a model of Scandinavian simplicity. There is a comprehensive dash, of course, with thumboperated remote control buttons on the steering wheel for a range of functions.

But many systems from satnav to climate control work via the large central touch screen, which is virtually an in-car home computer. Through the latest Volvo Sensus system, you can turn the car into a Wifi hotspot, connect smartphones, stream media or internet radio stations, find parking spots or hotels and use Volvo On-Call.

Using this latter system you can check if the doors and windows are locked, warm the car up before you get in it, and even have the car flash its lights to make it easier to find in a darkened car park. The sound system comes from renowned British company Bowers and



The new range has two models - the V90 cross country and the sportier R-Design

Wilkins - all 18 speakers and 1,400 watts of it. For many of the car's functions there's no need to touch any buttons or screens at all – it can deal with up to 200 voice commands.

This is a Volvo so, apart from the structure of the car itself, there are multiple hi-tech safety systems including some world firsts.

There's "city safety" which will automatically brake if it detects a possible collision not only with other cars but also pedestrians and large animals. Another system will correct the steering and tighten the seatbelts if it recognises you are about to run off road. Volvo's pilot assist system has also been

further developed. Like any adaptive cruise control, it uses the throttle and brakes to keep you a set distance from the car in front, but also uses the steering to keep you centred in a motorway lane. Such systems - once you get used to them - not only help to keep you safer but can also make a long drive more relaxing and less stressful. That's a combination which in many ways sums up the V90 Cross Country. Officially one of the safest cars, it is luxurious and yet highly competent both on and off-road and offers a competitive and different alternative to the conventional premium SUV with its low, sleek styling.

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£1.100.

07751 799795.



convertible cabriolet, 62,000 miles, 2003, blue, MoT October, economical and

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W Reg., PAS,

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5dr, 22k miles, 52 reg, 1 owner, 6 months MoT, service history



998cc

sunroof, 12 months MoT, 51,000 miles,

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2006, 39,000 miles 5 door, hatchback. Small car

(Seats 4 people) MoT July 2017

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MUST BE SEEN

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1.6, 06 reg, MoT August, 7 seats, 108,000 miles. service history, dark grey, very clean, drives well.

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cars over £1500

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Blue, low miles, MoT,

Well looked after

£2,000 ono

07948 146611.



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> £5.995 onc 07957 497988



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Full leather, rear parking sensor. Reg 28/12/14, 1 lady owner, FSH, 12,600 miles, low tax, excellent condition.

£10,200 o.n.o. 07780 681142.

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FORD FIESTA **TITANIUM 95**

5Dr hatchback, c, 2010, MoT Jan metallic, 2010, MoT January 2018, fsh, excellent condition one previous keeper, extras alloys, CD, mats, etc.

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2007, 5dr, 69k miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, metallic blue.

01902 845436 or 07885 459746.



MERCEDES A150SE CLASSIC 2008, 40,500 miles, silver, one lady owner, MoT, reversing sensors, excellent condition, PAS, FSH, alarm, Kingswinford



MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE

CONVERTIBLE
54 reg, 74,000 miles, FSH,
Obsidian Black, with cream
leather, keyless go, power
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anti roll bar wind deflector,
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Absolutely pristine.
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Penn Golf Club's new professional Andy Ellis, left, and director of Union Golf Stuart Bottrill



Keeping greens in tip-top condition - course manager Tim Johnson

Investment drive * now paying off

green with envy as they tee up for a bright future. The ambitious club have enjoyed a productive winter that has seen them appoint a new club professional.

new club professional.

They have also invested in a new fleet of Toro course machinery to help maintain the top class course that sweeps across Penn Common.

Andy Ellis has taken on the role of club professional. He is a regular county player at all age levels and former Staffordshire Matchplay champion, and competed in the British Amateur Championships at Royal Lytham St Annes before turning professional at the age of 23.

And in a further boost to the club, Ellis will be supported by Midlands PGA Golf Professional and director of Union Golf, Stuart Bottrill, who will oversee the provision of the solf shop services. And with Penn continuing to buck the

golf shop services. And with Penn continuing to buck the national trend by attracting new members and securing a number of high-profile amateur events this summer, there is a real feelgood factor about the place.

Quality

"There are so many new initiatives going on at present, it's a really exciting time for the club," said secretary Mick Woodhouse. "We are moving forward on several fronts. "We are delighted that Andy has joined us. He is a local lad and a former club champion at both Oxley and South Staffs, has played regular county golf at all age groups and played in the amateur open at Royal Lytham. "With a newly-refurbished golf shop, including a top-of-the-range Swing Studio, Andy will provide an exciting programme of coaching and custom fitting to ensure members and visitors alike are improving their game at whatever age and level they are at. We have also continued to support our course manager Tim Johnson with the various investments we have made.

"The course is getting better all the time and we are introducing two new practice areas which will facilitate a teaching and golf development programme for schools, juniors, ladies, gents and families."

ladies, gents and families."

The quality of the course has been emphasised yet again with the club due to stage the Staffordshire county trials this month, a Staffordshire Ladies clash with Worcestershire in April, a qualifying round for the Staffs Union of Golf Clubs Club Golfer Champion in June and a Staffordshire Ladies Bronze Alliance meeting in July.

SPORTING MEMORIES

"There are so many new initiatives going on at present, it's a really exciting time for the club"

In addition, American Golf have made a double booking with their seniors event, which proved a hit last year, sup-plemented by a nine-hole competition.

"American Golf held one of their senior qualifying tour-

"American Golf held one of their senior qualifying tour-naments here last year and they are coming back again this summer and we are also staging one of their nine-hole tour-naments," added Woodhouse. "Both of those are nationwide events while we have also got the county involved again. "It's testament to the quality of the course that we are asked to stage events such as these." But arguably the biggest boost for the club's hard-work-ing 14-strong board of directors is the continued rise in membership.

Ing 14-strong board of an embership.

"We have 480 members and we are hoping to push that to 500 this year," said Woodhouse. "We interviewed 48 new members last year and more interviews are currently taking place. That is most encouraging because a lot of clubs are structured to attract new members. struggling to attract new members.

struggling to attract new members.

"There is a lot of competition for new members around here because there are a lot of quality of courses in the area. So it is encouraging to see people coming to Penn."

"We have a new range of attractive membership packages across all categories with flexible payment plans and

ages across on tackgries with heating payment plans and no joining fees.
"Our one-month trial membership has proved popular, allowing prospective members to experience the course and the club facilities."

And prospective new members can take advantage of a family fun day and open afternoon on April 14 when they can play the course for free of charge from 2pm.

Anyone wishing to play on the day should call 01902

Eddie ready to tackle club business lunch

STOURBRIDGE Rugby Club has scored a massive coup by booking England Rugby head coach Eddie Jones as the headline speaker at an £100-a-head lunch. The Australian is the toast of rugby having just guided England to the Six Nations championship after previously leading them to their record 18th successive victory. He will be joined by former Stourbridge head coach and Australian international Glen Ella, British and Irish Lions international John Bentley, TV antiques expert Philip Serrell and Lord Digby Jones – former director-general of the Confederation of British Industry at the business lunch. Stourbridge Rugby chairman Robin Edwards said the excitement is building ahead of the May 5 event, which will see more than 1,100 guests. Tickets are still available and cost £95, plus VAT. But demand has been strong and tickets are being snapped up fast.

Jones is set to meet junior coaches and players from the club. Chairman Robin Edwards hopes Jones can inspire their younger players. Jones will hold morning training sessions prior to the club's corporate lunch event.

Scholars mourn loss of club stalwart, 79

CHASETOWN FC are mourning the loss of another club stalwart. Club president Brian Baker, aged 79, was a former player and was instrumental in the forming of Chase Terrace Old Scholars back in 1954. He was affectionately known as 'Blondie' in his playing days and Baker filled a number of roles in his 63 years with the club. His death comes just a month after the passing away of long-serving Chasetown physio Mick Andrews.

Tributes have been paid to Baker. Boss Dave Stringer said: "Its' been a very difficult start to 2017. Following the death of Mick, Brian is another huze loss.

huge loss.

"He was president of the club, part owner and was Chasetown through and through

and through.

"He was a lovely man who did everything he could for the club and will be sorely missed," Stringer added.

Chasetown chairman and lifelong friend of Mr Baker, Mike Joiner said: "Brian will be sadly missed by all associated with the club.

"For the past 63 years Brian has worked tirelessly for the club and for the past 33 years would be seen at the Scholars Ground day in day out."

Casino chips in with support for 'Bomber'

'BAGGIES Bomber' Tommy Langford lines up for the world WBO mid-dleweight title – and has the support of Birmingham's Broadway Casino. Langford steps into the ring on April 22 at Leicester Arena to face Georgian Avtandil Khurtsidze.

gian Avtandil Khurtsidze.

Just three years after turning professional in September 2012, Langford won his first regional championship, the WBO middleweight title. By 2016 he had claimed the British strap and reclaimed his Commonwealth title. He has an undefeated professional record and now has his sights set on middleweight superstar Gennady Golvkin. Langford, 27, born in Bideford, Devon to Midlands family, is now based in Birmingham and has a season ticket in the Birmingham Road End.

He has been sponsored for the fight by Broadway Casino.

Manazing director Denis Dowling said: "We showcase the best of hox-

Managing director Denis Dowling said: "We showcase the best of boxing in our lively Manhattan Bar. We are sure the added excitement of our sponsorship of Tommy will see even more avid fans flock to the casino. We are honoured to be able to associate our brand with Tommy, and are thoroughly looking forward to watching him in the ring."

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Golf club investment drive is paying off

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Chess team on edge of the trapdoor

ON Wednesday Stourbridge's Birmingham division 3 team played at Boldmere knowing a loss would mean relegation.

With Stourbridge 3-2 down following a loss on board 1 and draws for Ron Evans, Tony Shaw, Colin Woodall and Jeremy Humphries, it was left to Sam Bradley to win the final game.

He did win and Stourbridge drew the match, putting Stour now level with Sutton Coldfield 'B' but Sutton have one match left. They play at Olton knowing a draw saves them and sends Stourbridge down. If they lose there will be a play-off to avoid relegation.

to avoid relegation.

The Birmingham division 2 team's relegation worries are not as bad as the division 3 team's, but it was still looking pretty dire as Stourbridge travelled to high flying Shirley & Wythall 'B'.

Shirley & Wythall's board 1 was now tied to their first team so could not play, but even without him they still noticeably out-graded Stourbridge across the boards.

The Stourbridge players gave it their best shot with several games going down to the wire but in the end they lost 4½-1½ with Dave Scriven, Eric Horwill and Paul Sharratt all drawing against higher rated opponents

and Paul Sharratt all drawing against higher rated opponents.

It is now between Stourbridge and Warley Quinborne 'B' for the relegation place. Both teams have five points. Stourbridge have one match left and Warley Quinborne have two matches left against tough opposition. Stourbridge's last match at Solihull will be crucial.

A-team edges home against club rivals

Hagley A (114-) beat Hagley 'B' (88-3) by 16 runs
HAGLEY A switched the order with Dan Giles and Ed Rhodes opening. Giles was out for six but John McDonnell and Rhodes moved the score along.

Of the recognised batsmen to follow, only Joe Lennon made a real contribution. Hagley 'B' lost their first wicket on 17 in reply. Opener Stan James and Andy Millard moved the scoring along until James was out and the rate dropped.

along until James was out and the rate dropped.
Enville (109-3) beat Oldswinford (103-2) by six runs
Jono Howells (25) and Tom Bingham (28) put on 75 for the first Enville wicket. On their retirement Greg Tomkins scored at a good rate but other batsman gave their wickets away.
Oldswinford openers Mark Watts and Paddy Addis made 60 after six overs.
Captain Hogg Stanier kept the scoring

Captain Hogg Stanier kept the scoring going and was out on 95, but bad batting ultimately cost Oldswinford.

Triathlete in Ed start

NEW Black Country Triathlete Ed Parry completed his first triathlon last weekend at the Dyfi Dash Sprint Tri in Machynlleth.
Parry did the 400m swim in 8:39, 20km bike in 43:46 and the 5k run in 35:13 finishing in 1:31:07, 25th in his age group, an excellent result for his first race.

Ayres is ready to rock for Heathens



Danny Ayres is Cradley no1

DANNY Ayres starts the season as Cradley's new number one. Ayres, widely regarded as one of the top showmen in the sport, has made the winter switch from Kent after im-

pressing club bosses last season.

Boss Will Pottinger has revealed how he had a straight choice for top spot in the team between Ayres and returning

skipper Tom Perry.

"I had the unusual choice of selecting either Danny or Tom as our number one rider as they've both got the exact

same average of 8.56," he said. "After discussing this situation with Tom and Danny, I decided that Danny would start at number one.

"There are a number of factors behind this decision. Danny hasn't held anything back in the practice sessions that we've had and I'm convinced that that we've had and I'm convinced that he can hit the ground running in heat one. Also, Tom has made the number five race jacket his own while away with Birmingham so it seemed a logical decision." Heathens head to Birmingham next Wednesday for their re-arranged West Midlands Challenge with the Brum-

They then make a welcome return to Monmore Green on Easter Monday, April 17, against Mildenhall.

Club co-promoter Gary Patchett said: "It's an amazing achievement to have this club going into an eighth season without a track of our own, so we must thank Chris Van Straaten and the staff at Wolverhampton."

Glassboys face injury problems

Stourbridge 1 Grantham 2
RECENT years at the War Memorial
Ground have seen a succession of playoff disappointments, together with last
year's agonising finish when two defeats
in the final 48 hours of the season saw
them miss out

Saturday's 2-1 home defeat to Grantham hinted the end to the current campaign may be just as nervy for Gary Hackett's men as they look to close out a place in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division top five.

Division top five.

Goals early in each half from Luke and Lee Shaw earned the visiting Gingerbreads a victory which breathed new life into their own play-off charge. Stour's response was impressive and they pulled level on 15 minutes when Luke Benbow

fooled visiting keeper Kieran Preston with a 25-yard free-kick. Stour need to tread carefully over the remaining six games, four away from

remaining six games, four away from Amblecote.

Manager Hackett's mood on Saturday evening was soured by both the below-par performance and an injury list which continues to lengthen. Only a quick glance at the starting XI is required to get an idea of the scale of change since the Glassboys bowed out of the FA Cup in such heroic fashion at Wycombe in early January.

While the likes of Dan Scarr and Kristian Green were tempted away by offers

while the likes of Dan Scarr and Mis-tian Green were tempted away by offers higher up the pyramid, much of the up-heaval has been necessitated by injuries with Hackett seeing a number of key players sidelined.

On Saturday Matt Dodd was forced off

On Saturday Matt Dodd was forced off inside the opening 15 minutes following a recurrence of a calf problem. Centre-back Liam Slade, signed only a week ago from Halesowen Town to ease a defensive shortage, was then withdrawn in the second half after jarring his knee.

STOUR BATTLE CK TO WIN

Preston Grasshoppers 15 Stourbridge 26 STOURBRIDGE'S successful trip to the National 2 North basement-dwellers them in action on the hosts' RFU-funded artificial pitch

They came away with a bonus-point victory despite trailing 10-7 at the

victory despite trailing 10-7 at the break.

Stour found themselves seven points down when powerful blindside Sam Gale crashed over. This seemed to galvanize the visitors, a trademark break from flanker Billy Harding saw him reach Preston's 22 before he was pulled down but his offload provided a try for winger Joe Bridger. Stour found themselves a man and three points down when winger Dan Rundle was yellow-carded for a high tackle on the stroke of half time.

time.

A few words of advice from the coaching staff worked wonders. No.8 Ciaran Moore came bull-dozing through several tackles before being stopped on Preston's 22m line. Only an illegal tackle on winger Joe Bridger prevented a try Stour opted to kick to the corner with flanker Nigel Mukarati in possession as they ground over the line to give the visitors the lead.

Preston hit back with a try for Stour old boy 2nd row Chris Roddy, but this was the cue to turn up the pressure, A well-worked try followed another Moore break, the ball reaching centre Nathan Tilsley who eluded several challenges before touching down. before touching down.

Dominate

In the final minutes Bridger was again tackled illegally, Stour repeating the catch and drive
for second row Chris Depper to secure the bonus
point try.
Next Stour host Otley, 3pm.
The Greyhounds had a fantastic 29-0 away
at Luctonians in the West Mids Reserve league,
whilst the Grasshoppers got spanked 5-42 at Kidderminster Vets.
Stour Colts travelled to Sixways on Sunday for
a Colts learue zame and stunned their hosts with

a Colts league game and stunned their hosts with a 42-5 victory. Result of the weekend came from the under 15s who progressed through to the North Midlands Cup final with a 17-10 victory

Glassboys net mayor's award



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Stourbridge Football Club chairman Andy Poutney and Steve McDonald from the award sponsor Nordic Timber Buildings

mino's 01384 374666

STOURBRIDGE FC received yet more recognition for their incredible FA Cup run as the club's chairman collected a special award.

The Glassboys won many admirers as they marched to the third round of England foot-

ball's most famous cup competition, further

than they had ever gone before.

The run included a victory over third-tier side Northampton Town on a memorable night at the War Memorial Ground.

The dream was eventually ended by Wycombe Wanderers but the cup run will be for-

Chairman Andy Poutney picked up the Duncan Edwards Award from Mayor of Dud-ley Councillor Mohammed Hanif at the May-'s Civic Awards on Friday at The Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

The cup run netted the club more than

£100,000 in prize money, allowing various improvements to be made around the ground. Mr Poutney said: "From a football perspective, we are delighted that off the back of the

Yeltz held to a draw. Spennymoor the pity

Spennymoor 1 Halesowen 1 HALESOWEN got a creditable draw away from home and earned their fourth

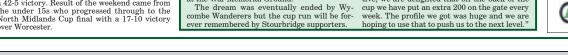
away from nome and earned their fourth point in two games.

The Yeltz included new signing from Burton Albion, Cameron Steele, and he made an immediate impact on 26 min-utes when he scored from the edge of the box. Spennymoor had the ball in the net

box. Spennymoor had the bail in the net six minutes later but Graeme Armstrong was adjudged to have handled the ball. Mo Diop could have made it two just before the break but saw his shot saved by goalkeeper Daniel Lowson. The home side equalised on 72 minutes when sub-stitute Robert Ramshaw scored.

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